

**Gambian Leader Defies Regional Leaders**  
**Page 33**



## Francesco Corallo arrested on request of Italian authorities

~ Baetsen also arrested ~

PHILIPSBURG--Atlantis Group owner Francesco Corallo (56) and the Group's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Rudolf Baetsen (56) were arrested in St. Maarten on Tuesday.

The Anti-corruption Taskforce (TBO) of the Kingdom Detectives Cooperation Team arrested Corallo at the request of Italian authorities and Italy will ask for his extradition, the Prosecutor's Office said in a press release on

Tuesday. Corallo will be prosecuted in Italy for amongst other things, tax evasion and bribery of several politicians. The Italy-born Corallo is also suspected in Italy for using his businesses for money-laundering.

On Tuesday, authorities also searched several of Corallo's properties in St. Maarten including his home and an office building. The arrests and searches are

*Continued on page 8*

## Elshot says she is innocent, union calls for her release

PHILIPSBURG--Windward Islands Teachers Union (WITU) President Claire Elshot-Aventurin (59) has professed her innocence of the charges being levied against her.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the WITU board called for Elshot's release. The union said it had been keeping close tabs on the situation regarding the union president's detention and has es-

tablished contact with Elshot via her lawyer. In a written statement to WITU Vice President Corinne Lejuez-van Putten, Elshot "emphatically denied the charges levied against her."

"I trust that the investigation will show clearly that I, Claire Elshot-Aventurin, am innocent. My reputation of being calm and composed throughout meetings and using social dialogue as the tool to reach any and all tangible solutions is being violated," the union quoted Elshot as saying in her statement.

"I didn't in any way write that post nor have I given anybody permission to do that. I have led my union with integrity and respect."

The board "strongly" advocated Elshot's release from detention "taking into consideration all the persons who depend on her leadership and for the investigation to

*Continued on page 7*



Once again heavy rainfall has created a lake between the Simpson Bay Suites and the Burger King on the road to Pelican making driving and walking hazardous. Despite this photo appearing in The Daily Herald before, so far nothing has been done by Government to fix the drainage in this spot. The situation is a constant irritant to the many tourists who have to avoid the water as they walk from the Atrium or Pelican area towards Simpson Bay. The water takes days to recede and disappear.

## Sarah: Govt. needs to admit it can't handle dump alone

PHILIPSBURG--It is time for Government to admit that it cannot handle the situation with the dump alone and it needs to call an international group to assist with the way forward, said Democratic Party (DP) leader Member of Parliament (MP) Sarah Wescot-

Williams during Tuesday's debate on the draft 2017 budget.

"Government, we need to admit we can't handle it," Wescot-Williams said.

She stated that the international assistance should not be any company telling the country what it can do to solve the dump situation. The assistance should be in the form of groups with expertise in this field helping the country

formulate what is needed to remedy the situation quickly and effectively.

The time for more studies and research has passed, she said. It

*Continued on page 9*

### IN BRIEF

• **Philipsburg**  
**FRANS: PROTECT PRIMARY HOME**

Protect the primary home of residents via legislation to ensure this cannot be auctioned off by the tax marshal, US Party leader Frans Richardson proposed during the budget debate in Parliament. Page 3

• **Philipsburg**  
**LEE TELLS VSA PLANS**

Finalising the changes to the Civil Code on short-term labour contracts and the construction of a new general hospital are among the plans announced by VSA Minister Emil Lee. Page 4

• **Philipsburg**  
**SEIZED CARS DESTROYED**

The police reiterated their call for the owners of two confiscated vehicles to claim these before they are destroyed on December 22. Page 5

**Shop & Take**  
 Shop for smart technology  
 W.J.A Nisbeth Road # 73, Pondfill  
 Tel: 725-533-2255  
 Bluetooth Wireless Rechargeable Speaker with Wireless Mic  
**2000 WATTS**  
**\$ 119.99**  
 Only @ ShopAndTake  
 Email: info@shopandtake.com  
 WhatsApp: +1 7215231222

**NAPA KNOW HOW**  
**MORE THAN CAR PARTS**  
**SEE US FOR ALL YOUR HEAVY-DUTY NEEDS**  
  
 Tel: +(1)721 544 3355 • Tel: +(1)721 542 3555  
 e-mail: sales@napa.sx  
 f NAPASXM t

**Obersi Group** **xerox**  
 Exclusive Distributor  
**NOW AVAILABLE AT OBERSI GROUP OF COMPANIES**  
 • COPIERS • SCANNERS  
 • PRINTERS • MFP DEVICES  
 • SOLUTIONS • AND MORE  
 **BEST QUALITY**  
 **BEST PRICES**  
 **BEST SERVICE**  
 **TIMELY PROPOSALS**  
 Tel: +1 721 542-2785 Fax: 5423924  
 E-mail: salesxm@obersigroup.com  
**www.obersigroup.com**

**SCS**  
**SAFE CARGO SERVICES**  
**LET US BE YOUR SHIPPING DEPARTMENT**  
 JULIANA AIRPORT  
 TEL: 545-2533/545-2952  
 POINTE BLANCHE  
 542-3533/542-3506

**TEXT & WIN BIG**  
 Text "IWANT2WIN" to "7777"  
  
 Text as many times as possible to increase your chances of winning 10 lucky winners will be randomly selected during the 1st week of Jan 2017  
 10 per game, 20 per hour from 9pm to 11pm on regular business, 10 per game, 10 from 11pm to 12am on regular business.  
**TELcel**  
 Call 011 or 546-0100 ext.1 for more info.

**The Kids Herald**  
**See Inside**



Member of the  
Inter American Press Association  
Published by  
The Caribbean Herald NV  
Bush Road 22  
St. Maarten  
Dutch Caribbean  
P.O. Box 828  
CoC # 6997.0  
RBC Royal Bank St. Maarten  
USD acc. 820000002129383  
NAF acc. 8200000404075271

President  
R.F. Snow  
Managing Director  
Mary Jane Hellmund  
Publisher/ Managing Director  
Paul De Windt  
Editorial  
Gordon H. Snow  
(Managing Editor)  
Rajesh Chintaman  
(Night Editor)  
Margaret Brooks  
(Email Editor)  
Judy Fitzpatrick  
Alita Singh  
John van Kerkhof  
Andrew Dick  
Thomas A. Burnett Jr. (Sports)  
John Halley (photos)  
Correction  
Saresa Gray  
Sharon van Arneman  
Lesley Vieira  
Clive Hodge  
Phyllis Meit  
Cindy Carter  
Kathren Weeks  
Celine Carly  
Correspondents  
Suzanne Koelega (Neth.)  
Brenda Carly (Anguilla)  
Althea Merkmán (Statia)  
Robert Luckock (St. Martin)

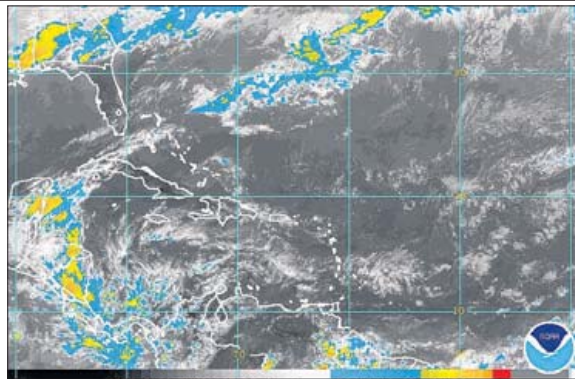
Richard James  
Rodolphe O. Boirard  
Stephen Morris  
Operations Manager/  
Managing Director  
Steven De Windt  
Office Manager  
Mijke Stenz  
Rosalie Davis (assis.)  
Accounting  
Ada van Luling  
Mercedes De Windt  
Advertising  
Moira Marcelle (Chief)  
Stephanie Culbert  
Harmen Rijsdijk  
Cecilia Vazquez  
Saskia Van Leeuwen  
Latoya Phillips (assis.)  
Graphics  
Mark Martelly  
Evaney Henriques  
Chanaz Calor  
Mark Persaud  
Sjorensly Valies  
Special Editions  
Lisa Burnett  
Claudienne Peterson  
Lucinda Frye  
Reception  
Ethlyn Joubert

CALLING  
THE DAILY HERALD

ST. MAARTEN  
Telephone  
542-5253/542-5597/  
542-0931/543-7236  
FAX 542-5913  
E-Mail:

thedailyherald.net  
advertising@thedailyherald.com  
editorial@thedailyherald.com  
classifieds@thedailyherald.com

ANGUILLA/264-497-3138  
SABA  
416-2381/416-2881 (sales)  
416-6561 (edit)  
scottkirkpatrick@hotmail.com  
STATIA  
318-2401/318-2936/  
fax 318-2136



## WEATHER

A small craft advisory remains in effect for St. Maarten until further notice.

Today: Partly cloudy to cloudy and breezy, with scattered showers.

Winds: Easterly, 13-22mph, with occasional higher gusts.

Sea conditions: Moderate to rough.

Seas: 6-9 feet.

Forecast high: 29°C 84°F

Forecast low: 24°C 75°F

**SYNOPSIS:** The dominant Atlantic high pressure system continues to produce breezy conditions. Patches of moisture embedded in the wind flow will generate cloudiness with scattered showers across the local area. Residents and motorists should be cautious, as moderate to heavy showers could cause local street flooding. Seas will remain moderate to rough at least through today. Some improvement is expected during the second half of the work-week before conditions once again deteriorate over the weekend. Small craft operators and sea-bathers are advised to continue exercising caution.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** None.

**Outlook through Thursday evening:** Partly cloudy to cloudy and breezy, with scattered showers.

Sunrise: 6:36am.

Sunset: 5:39pm.

Fill up with Sol Go Further Fuels and get 10km\* more mileage per tank! Go further with Sol!

\*Based on average driving conditions in a 1.8 litre engine with a full 50 litre gas tank.

Date	Vessel	Place	Arrival	Departure	Agent
Dec. 14	Azura	Pier	6:30	17:30	Maduro
Dec. 14	Harmony of the Seas	Pier	7:00	17:00	Maduro
Dec. 14	Britannia	Pier	7:00	18:00	Maduro
Dec. 14	Freedom of the Seas	Pier	9:15	19:00	Maduro
Dec. 14	Aidaluna	Pier	12:00	20:00	Maduro

## ST. MAARTEN

### POLICE STATION

Philipsburg tel. 542-2222  
Simpson Bay tel. 545-5500  
HOT LINE 108

### EMERGENCY 911

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tel. 542-6001 or 919

### HOSPITAL

Medical Center, Cay Hill

24-hour Emergency Service

tel. 543-1111 or 910

### AMBULANCE

Philipsburg tel. 542-2111 or 912

### MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

For medical emergencies after clinic

hours, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 am and during

weekends and holidays, all patients can go

to the emergency room of the St. Maarten

Medical Center. tel.: 543-1111 (ext. 1)

### SXM Animal Welfare Foundation Ambulance

Line 520-8887

### CRIME STOPPERS ANONYMOUS TIP LINE:

543-TIPS(8477)

### TELEPHONE INFO

Tel-em: 542-2211

### WEATHER INFO: 123

### ST. MAARTEN TOURIST OFFICE

Krippa Building, Juancho Yrausquin Blvd.

#6, tel. +1 721-5490200, fax. +1 721-542-0664

### ST MAARTEN ZOO

Madame Estate: tel. 543-2030

Open daily 9 am - 5 pm.

Admission: Adults: \$10, kids \$5.

### COLE BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

meeting 1st. Thursday of month at Sun

Flower Kinder Garten School, Union Rd.

Cole Bay at 7:30pm

### SERVICE CLUBS

### THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MAARTEN

meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at

79 Bush Rd., Unit#10 (Le Grand Marche

Complex). Rotary Mid Isle meets every

Tuesday 7 pm, at Mary's Boon, Simpson

Bay. Rotary Sunrise meets every Tuesday

at 7am at Gingerbread Cafe located in

Belair Beach Hotel Terrace Restaurant.

Rotary Club of St. Martin Nord meet at the

Grand Case Beach Club Sunday at 7:30

p.m. Rotarac Club of St. Maarten Sunrise

meets every 1st and 4th Saturday at 7am

at Belair Beach Hotel.

Email: presidentrotarysxm@gmail.com

### LIONS meeting at the Upper Princess

Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in

Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday

of the month at 7 p.m.

### ST. MAARTEN LEO CLUB meeting at the

Lions Den every 1st, 3rd Saturday every

month at 11:00 am.

Kiwanis meets at Wifol Building on

Thursday each month at 7.30pm.

Kiwanis Key Club of the St. Maarten

Academy meeting at the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1.30 p.m.

Kiwanis Soualiga 1st & 3rd Monday

7:00pm Holland House.

## Significant breakthrough

With all that's been going on, Tuesday's news that University of St. Martin (USM) Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) Hospitality Management students can now enrol in the fast-track programme of the Hotel School in The Hague should not go unnoticed. The importance of preparing young professionals to take on top jobs within the island's tourism industry is obvious.

It's a public secret that mostly foreigners currently occupy these functions, which not too long ago prompted Finance Minister Richard Gibson to warn of a possible "revolution." He said none of the general managers at major resorts on the Dutch side were local, which later proved not to be entirely correct, but the message was clear.

While the Minister seemed to blame especially employers, the apparent failure of the education system to produce suitable candidates for such positions cannot be overlooked. Efforts are undoubtedly being made to change that and USM's arrangement with the Dutch college ranked fifth in the world serves as a good example.

One of the advantages is that students will have to stay in the Netherlands just two years to earn their degrees, increasing the chance for their successful return and possibly reducing the burden of their study loan debt. Judging by the number of views on and reactions to the story on *The Daily Herald's* Facebook page, this latest development is being widely welcomed as a significant breakthrough in empowering future generations of St. Maarten. Congratulations are in order.

SMART PLAY	SXM DAILY NUMBERS	CURAÇAO
30520	13704	2820
64471	88870	9796
25327	73849	3102

Results displayed are provided as a service to readers of The Daily Herald and are not official. All winning numbers are to be verified at Robbie's Lottery main office.

See Sint Maarten's BIGGEST selection of **KWIK BARGAINS** Outdoor Christmas Ornaments

Reindeer for \$14.99 NAF.26.10  
Reindeer for \$19.99 NAF.35.10  
Angels for \$20.- NAF.36.-  
Santa Sleigh \$14.99 NAF.26.10  
and much more ...

Like us on Facebook for GREAT Prizes

## Agenda St. Maarten / St. Martin

JCI St. Maarten (JAYCEES) meeting at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library every last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Business attire required.

PHILIPSBURG TOASTMASTERS CLUB bi-monthly sessions every first and third Thursday of every month at the Library conference room at 8:00 p.m.

### ST. MARTIN MUSEUM

Frontstreet 7, Philipsburg, tel 542-4917

Opening hours from March 1st:

Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sundays: closed.

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mon-Sun, 6-7pm, Red Cross Building, Airport Road. Saturday and Sunday at Mullet Bay beach next to restaurant 8.30-9.30am. Tel. 520-2320

### St. Maarten AIDS Foundation 55 Welfare Road

tel: +55326261 +5884636

SALVATION ARMY Union Rd., #53, Cole Bay, P.O. Box 5184 Tel/fax: 544-5424 (721) 544-5424 / 5534682 email: jona\_augusto@hotmail.com Facebook: SXM Salvation Army.

### NATURE FOUNDATION ST. MAARTEN

Wellsburg Street 1A, units 25-26, Cole Bay. Tel. 544-4267. Fax. 544-4268. Email: info@naturefoundation.sxm.org

### ANIMALS R. FRIENDS

Mailbox La Palapa Center, Simpson Bay. Email: arf\_sxm@yahoo.com, www.arfsxm.org

### PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY

Ch.E.W.Vogestr. 12, Tel. 542-2970.

Open: Mo: closed, Tu/W: 9-12.30 / 2-8, Th: 2-8, Fr: 9-12.30 / 2-5, Sa: 10-1.

### WOMEN'S DESK, Hope Estate Road #4;

Hope Estate Upper Princess Quarter (1721) 542-7940 / (1721) 520-1145 / (1721) 520-1146

SAFE HAVEN, Hotline: 9333; or (721) 5236400; email: info@safehavensxm.com  
CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, E.C. Richardson Street 11-b; Tel. 542-1000/542-1008; Fax: 542-1001.

COAST GUARD, (24 HRS): 913

FRENCH HONORARY CONSUL - P.O. Box 803, Philipsburg - Tel. : 011 590 590 87 99 89 - Email: Stanislav.GRAIRE@wanadoo.fr - Open: Mon. Tue. Wed. 9:00am to 12:00pm.

LEGAL AID CENTER, Law Clinic, open every Saturday 9:00am - 12.00 noon. Free advise on personal legal issues. Administration Building, tel. 5422337.

### THE RED CROSS, ST. MAARTEN,

Airport Road, #34 Simpson Bay, Tel. 545-2333/2304, Fax. 545-5263, Cell. 586-5330 (24/7) Email: info@redcross-sxm.org

SALVATION ARMY Union Rd., #53, Cole Bay, P.O. Box 5184 Tel/fax: 544-5424 (721) 544-5424 / 5534682 email: jona\_augusto@hotmail.com Facebook: SXM Salvation Army.

### ST. MAARTEN CHAPTER OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN holds

their general monthly meetings every third Monday at the Delta Hotel at 7:00 pm.

### DIABETES FOUNDATION OF ST. MAARTEN.

Free blood-glucose testing every Thursday from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Philipsburg Pharmacy Vopes Street, Philipsburg (opposite Library). Tel.: 542-3001

USO St. Maarten/St. Martin (USA military), contact Janet Lambert 5577616 or 00590 590 294406.

### SKALCLUB ST. MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN

meets 1st Tuesday of the month. For location call: 5424432 (Jennifer).

St. Maarten/St. Martin Alliance For Equality (SAFE) Tel: +1-721-5504221 www.safesxm.com facebook:safe.sxm G+: +safe.sxm

## ST. MARTIN

### POLICE MUNICIPAL

tel. (00590) 590 87.61.55

### GENDARMERIE

tel. (00590) 590 52.30.00/2

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

tel. (00590) 590 52.30.40

### AMBULANCE

tel. (00590) 590 52.00.52

Cell. (00590) 690 57.13.28

Fax. (00590) 590 29.08.11

### HOSPITAL tel. (00590) 590 52 25 25

DISPENSARE Marigot 8 a.m. - 3p.m. tel. (00590) 590 87.50.93

DISPENSARE Orlean 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. tel. (00590) 590 87.37.21

C.R.O.S.S. (Center, Research, Organization, Rescue, Security) is on stand by 24 hours at 0596 709292.

### SERVICE CLUBS

ROTARY Club Sunset Restaurant, Grand Case Beach Club every Thursday at 7:45p.m.

LIONS First and third Tuesday at Nadail-Marigot at 7.30 p.m.

### MUSEUM ST. MARTIN

located Fichot Street n 7 (behind the Catholic Church) open from 9am to 1pm, and from 3pm to 5pm tel. (00590)590 56.78.92.

# Frans calls for legislation to protect primary home

PHILIPSBURG--Protect the primary home of residents via legislation to ensure this cannot be auctioned off by the tax marshal was a proposal United St. Maarten Party (US Party) leader Member of Parliament Frans Richardson made in the debate on the draft 2017 budget on Tuesday.

Richardson said too many people who have tax issues are faced with losing their home and they need to be protected. However, that protection comes with a caveat. The MP said such legislation must also include that once the primary home is mortgage free, it cannot be remortgaged.

"The easiest thing to lose in a tax case is a home," said the MP, adding that locals seem to be "most targeted" by the Tax Department. His comments came after a number of homes in past years have been placed on auction for non-tax compliance.

A more targeted information and awareness campaign was called for by Richardson to inform residents about their tax obligations.

The suggestion of the MP to Finance Minister Richard Gibson Sr. is to reduce the profit to at least 17 per cent. Reducing the profit tax to encourage investment was also raised by Richardson. He compared the local situation where that tax stands at some 34.5 per cent to that of the region where the rates are much lower.

Richardson, like many fellow MPs in last week's Central Committee meeting of Parliament and this week's ongoing plenary session, emphasized the challenges facing the tourism sector, the main economic generator for the country.

The need to continue marketing efforts to boost tourism was expounded on by Richardson. "We need to be more proactive," he said as he called for an explanation to why the tourism budget for several years running has had "significant money left back" when this could be used for marketing and promotion.

MP Sidharth "Cookie" Biljani (United People's party) expressed severe concerns

about the increase in bold crimes against the business community and residents. He pointed out there was a time when criminals steered clear of the businesses in which tourists congregated, but now criminals are rushing into jewellery stores and smashing glass cases and grabbing up gold merchandise in the presence of visitors and local shoppers. Crime and lack of sustained marketing have led to some 50 businesses closing in town and a number of others around the country, he said.

National Alliance (NA) MP Ardwell Irion asked Gibson Sr. to look into the possibility of one-stop payments for government services instead of applicants for permits and other documents having to move from office to office to accomplish a task. He requested a list of soon to retire persons and the posts that will come available. Older people in government "should not see young people as a threat" in the organization as many do "not want your job; they only want to see our ideas put into practice," he said.

MP Silvio Matser (US Party) said it was time to take care of St. Maarten and find new sources of income to boost the budget. He has suggested the implementation of a fee for all holders of foreign director's licences. Make it too expensive to hire people from overseas and this will lead to more local employment, he said. Gibson

Sr., was urged by Matser to use his business acumen to come up with solutions to boost the economy. Government was told by the MP "to respect the motions" passed by Parliament and execute these post haste.

MP Christophe Emmanuel (NA) called on the justice minister to look into issuing Uber-like licences to boost entrepreneurship in the transport sector. This will help locals without a job and "weed out" the mushrooming gypsy taxis business. He called for "set rules and policy" to focus this kind of entrepreneurship that will aid residents who cannot get a bus into their neighbourhood.

Government was urged to protect local businesses and making room for entrepreneurs to grow by MP Rodolphe Samuel (NA). He also questioned the impact of the Pearl of China Project, the further development of the much talked about performing arts centre and cricket stadium as well as plans for the University on St. Martin (USM).

The MPs who participated in the debate on Monday and Tuesday will get answers to the questions and proposals made to the Council of Ministers today, Wednesday, when the session resumes in Parliament House at 10:00am.



Ministry of Public Housing, Environment, Spatial Development and Infrastructure VRO-MI issued a statement expressing concerns about illegal dumping of trash in several neighbourhoods. Infrastructure Management Department Head Claudius Buncamper said persons are exercising unacceptable behaviours that are causing a pile up of waste at public areas, which sets unwanted precedents. "Every time these areas are cleaned, another culprit exercises this type of poor example by disposing of their illegal waste in bulk, not even in the bin, but on the ground and surrounding areas. This is unacceptable and our residents have got to set a better example." The Ministry continues to urge persons to dispose of large waste items such as stoves and couches as well as outdoor debris, being large branches, at the sanitary landfill.

# Zenith to start cruises here from December 18

POINTE BLANCHE-Pullmantur/Crosieres de France's cruise ship *Zenith* will start weekly cruises from here as of December 18 until May 1, 2017. The ship will be in port from 10:00am to 7:30pm. Sister ship *Horizon* had done the same for two seasons.

The *Zenith's* seven-night itinerary has changed from that of *Horizon*. The itinerary has one day at sea with stops in Santo Domingo and La Romana and back to St. Maarten. The all-inclusive feature of the cruise package includes alcohol.

Just like the prior season, most travellers will not need any visa to travel to these destinations.

After completing the St. Maarten itinerary in May, *Zenith* will start another itinerary in the Caribbean and is available to book via Carib-A-Travel. From May 2017 to October 16, 2017, the

ship has a seven-day itinerary starting in Curaçao with stops in Aruba, Bonaire, Colon, Panama and Cartagena, Colombia.

Carib-A-Travel is open from 7:00am, Monday to Saturday. For more information, call 1-721-586-6999 or e-mail info@carib-a-travel.com.

DETOXIFY  
NOURISH  
ADAPT

Innerharmony  
wellness centers  
Plaza Puerta Del Sol, Simpson Bay  
Tel: +1 721 581 2480  
email: peteramato@aol.com

**BOSCH BRAKES AND AUTO CENTER**

A. TH. ILLIDGE ROAD, TEL: (1-721)543-7206  
OPEN: MON - FRI, 7:45AM-5PM / SAT, 8AM-1PM

We fix all makes & model cars, SUV's, vans, pickups, buses and light trucks.

Services include: Lube Change, Shocks, Brakes, Suspension, AC, Electronic, Engine & Transmission Repair and more....

GET 10% OFF WITH THIS

RELIABILITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION GUARENTEED!

Tonight's Dinner Special  
**Manhattan Steak with Peppercorn Sauce \$24.00**

**Boca Restaurant**

For reservations call:  
+ 1721 5882770 / 5882780

Le GRAND DEAL OF THE WEEK  
**GRAPEFRUIT**

BUY 5 FOR NAF \$5.40  
**\$3.00**

COTTON COOL  
**Men's Suits**  
(any size)  
**\$99.00 & up**

Beckstreet #55, Philipsburg, St. Maarten  
Tel: 542-0087

Wide range of executive furniture

Clean Communications N.V. Agent for  
**Cariburo**

Longwall Road - Philipsburg - Cell: 52 72002 (Cécile) - Tel/Fax: 542-6892 - cleancom@caribserve.net

Available Now  
**Parrot minidrones**

STARTING \$89.95

fun miles

REDEEM YOUR FUNMILES @ BLUE POINT

**BLUE POINT POND FILL**

#41 W.J.A. Nisbeth Road, Pondfill, St. Maarten  
Tel: 542 1200 Fax 542 1300 E-mail: sales@gotobbluepoint.com

COLEBAY

WELFARE ROAD #55, Opposite Tropicana Casino, Colebay, St. Maarten. E-mail: sales@gotobbluepoint.com

OPEN ON ALL SUNDAYS TIME: 10:00AM TO 2:00PM

# MSC Cruises Chairman Sasso meets Port to discuss strategic partnership

POINTE BLANCHE--Port St. Maarten management has had follow-up discussions with MSC Cruises Chairman Rick Sasso regarding a strategic partnership between the cruise line and the Port. MSC Cruises is making considerable investments in constructing future larger vessels (FLVs).

The Swiss-based world's largest privately-owned cruise line will become the third largest cruise company, surpassing Disney and Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL). As MSC Cruises embarks on major growth in the world's top cruise market, North America, it has appointed a new US-based president in Roberto Fusaro.

MSC Cruises, which grew by 800 per cent since 2004, carried 1.67 million guests in 2014 and reported strong financial results with a turnover of 1.5 billion euros. In addition, MSC Cruises forecast an additional 10 per cent growth in 2015. It employs 15,000 staff members around the world and

is present in 45 countries.

Mid-November at the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Executive Partner Summit which took place in Miami, Florida, Port St. Maarten Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mark Mingo met with MSC Cruises Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago, who committed to increasing cruise tourism passenger numbers to the destination for the 2017-2018 winter season.

MSC Cruises will surpass 100,000 cruise passengers in 2017.

MSC Cruises made 24 port calls bringing in 71,167 passengers. The forecast for 2016 is 26 port calls and 91,734 passengers, and the outlook for 2017 is 33 port calls with approximately 127,674 passengers.

NCL made 42 port calls in 2015, bringing in 139,419 cruise passengers. The forecast for 2016 is 29 port calls with 82,316 passengers and outlook for 2017 is 39 port calls with 101,007 passengers.

Disney Cruise Line made

25 port calls in 2015, bringing 93,579 cruise passengers; forecast for 2016 is nine port calls with 22,700 passengers and outlook for 2017 is 11 calls with 27,400 passengers.

Port St. Maarten has made considerable investments over the year such as the Walter Plantz Square. The Port is also looking into additional cultural and heritage experiences in which cruise passengers are interested that tell the story about the destination. Many of the passengers taking a cruise with MSC Cruises whose interests vary and who want to learn more about the destination come from the European Union (EU).

"Because of the proactive approach by Port St. Maarten, cruise lines are interested in bringing more cruise passengers to the destination and we are at the stage of developing a strategic partnership. Very important is how cruise passengers enjoy their experience, and this has been very good. In order for the



Port St. Maarten CEO Mark Mingo (left) sharing a light moment with MSC Cruises Chairman Rick Sasso (right) during a CLIA event in November.

destination to continue to be ahead of the others, we have to continue to invest, and that is where Master Plan 2 comes into play.

"Strategic partnerships are necessary and that is how we can continue to sail into new opportunities that would result in business for the destination over the long-term," Mingo said on Tuesday.

MSC Cruises has a fleet of 12 ships. In 2014 it launched an investment plan to support the second phase of growth and in April 2016 it ordered additional vessels for a total investment of nine billion euros for up to 11 new next-generation ships that will come into service starting in 2017 to

2026, making the cruise line the third largest.

MSC Cruises is the first global cruise line brand to develop an investment plan of this length and magnitude, spanning a horizon of more than 10 years, from 2014 through 2026.

MSC Cruises is the brand market leader in Europe, South America and South Africa, sailing year-round in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. Seasonal itineraries cover Northern Europe, the Atlantic Ocean, Cuba and the French Antilles, South America, Southern Africa, China and Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Oman.

MSC Cruises recently released details of further enhancements to its itiner-

aries in the Mediterranean for the 2017 summer season and for its itineraries in the Antilles for the 2017-2018 winter season.

MSC's *Seaside* will be calling at Port St. Maarten on a seven-night Eastern Caribbean itinerary in December 2017. *MSC Seaside* will lead the way for a new generation of cruise ships with their revolutionary architecture and cutting-edge technology. This new ship will be the first vessel in the MSC Cruises fleet to be christened in the United States and thereafter will be sailing in the Caribbean year-round from Miami's port.

## Finalising civil code changes among VSA's plans for 2017

PHILIPSBURG--Finalising the changes to the civil code on short-term labour contracts and the construction of a new general hospital for St. Maarten are amongst the plans of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs VSA for 2017.

Health Minister Emil Lee outlined the plans to Members of Parliament (MPs) during Monday's public sitting of parliament on the draft 2017 budget.

Plans in the area of labour reform include finalising the changes to civil code; implementing the consensus document which was signed recently; having a general mandatory pension scheme that is fully transferrable; and increasing the compliance culture in the country.

In the area of health, the plans include finalising the National Health Insurance (NHI); Health Information System; having a new tariff

structure for St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC); focussing on health promotion and disease prevention including vector control management; the construction of the new medical centre and strengthening cooperation with French St. Martin, in particular in areas such as hospital and specialised care and reviewing the Health Care Institution policy and legislation amongst other plans.

Under social reform the Ministry plans to review and enhance the financial aid legislation; evaluate crises care assistance and facilities; reviewing an increase in the AOV age to 65; further implementation of empowerment programmes and community assistance to vulnerable groups and developing and/or review of social care policy, domestic violence policy, early childcare policy and sexual reproductive health policy. The total budget for the VSA Ministry for 2017 stands at NAF. 4,565,000.

## Parties meet with mediator on Little Switzerland CLA

PHILIPSBURG--Representatives of Little Switzerland and Workers Institute For Organised Labour (WIFOL) met at the Mediator's office on Monday to continue discussions on a new Collective Labour Agreement (CLA) for workers.

Little Switzerland's Vice President of Human Resources Mike Cooney told *The Daily Herald* that several items that were still under negotiation were discussed, but said he is not at liberty to discuss spe-

cifics since negotiations were still in progress. "There will be further discussions to be held before an agreement can be made," Cooney said.

A group of just over 20 Little Switzerland workers from the establishment's Front Street and Port St. Maarten locations downed tools in a protest action for about two hours last week Monday to send a strong message to management that they would like their CLA finalised and signed post haste. At the heart of the workers'

concerns is the lengthy time management is taking to finalise the Agreement. Parties have been engaged in talks for a new CLA for some three years and it has not yet been finalised.

Cooney had said that while the company is negotiating in good faith, a resolution to finalising the CLA and addressing the concerns of workers is dependent on both the union and management negotiating in good faith.

### FOR RENT - POINTE BLANCHE

Deluxe 2 bedroom/2 bath apartment in Pointe Blanche. Master bathroom with double vanity and granite counter-top. Washer & dryer in separate laundry room. Custom euro-style kitchen with Bosch stainless appliances. 3 aircos and 3 ceiling fans. Secure landscaped ocean view location with remote controlled entry gate, generous parking space, private gazebo with BBQ and picnic table. \$2,100-per month (utilities not included).

Please call for an appointment to view:  
520 6447 or 520 1760



Another confiscated vehicle.

## Confiscated vehicles will be destroyed if unclaimed

PHILIPSBURG--The police, on Tuesday, reiterated its call for the owners of two confiscated vehicles to make contact with the Police Department to claim their vehicles, which are scheduled to be destroyed on Thursday, December 22.

Acting police spokesperson Steven Carty stated in a police press release on Tuesday, that despite an announcement made in the media in November, in which the owners of the vehicles were asked to make contact with the Police Department, no communication has been received from the owners. The vehicles are therefore scheduled to be destroyed by December 22.

Carty said anyone who recognises the vehicles as their own, before the date set for destruction, can contact Jessica Christina at the Philipsburg Police station to claim their property.

Christina can be reached at tel. 542-2222 ext. 221. The owners should have the necessary documentation for the vehicle on hand.



One of the confiscated vehicles.

## Library announces special Christmastime grace period

PHILIPSBURG--Philipsburg Jubilee Library will be giving back to their patrons this Christmas season by offering two weeks of returning one's long overdue books free of charge. This grace period started on Tuesday and will run until Friday, December 23.

All overdue books can be returned free of charge, and no questions will be asked, the Library stated.

During the holiday season the Library will be having limited opening hours. On Tuesday, December 20, Wednesday, December 21, and on Tuesday, December 27, and Wednesday, December 28 the Library will be open 9:00am to 12:30pm, and 2:00pm to 6:00 pm.

Thursday, December 22, the Library will be hosting its Christmas Market 10:00am

to 7:30pm, and will close its doors at 8:00pm as scheduled.

On Friday, December 23, and December 30, the Library will be open 9:00am to 12:00pm, and on Saturday, December 24, and December

31, the Library will be closed.

On Tuesday, January 3, and Wednesday, January 4, the Library will be open 9:00am to 12:30pm, and 2:00pm to 6:00 pm; on Thursday, January 5, 2:00pm to 8:00pm; and

on Friday, January 6, 9:00am to 12:30pm, and 2:00pm to 5:00pm. The Library will resume its regular opening hours as of Tuesday, January 10, 2017.



The holiday spirit is definitely in the air at Walter Plantz Square on Front Street. The area, decked out in decorations and lights, has become a popular spot for families, diners and visitors to get into the holiday mood.



**K1 BRITANNIA**  
k1britanniafoundation.org

Foundation

# Be a Child's Angel this Christmas!

During the weekend of December 16th-18th, the K1 Britannia Foundation will once again fill the Christmas tree in Clem Labega Square with little angels! Each one is made with love by and represents a foster child, a client of the Sister Basilia Center, a resident of the St. Martin's Home, a child under social services, or an underprivileged child who needs some extra love this Christmas! Pass by on any of these days to choose your special angel that you would like to be the secret Santa for this Christmas by buying them a present, and in return you get to keep the little angel as a gift from that person to you. Just choose an angel, and a K1 representative will tell you the age of the person who made it and help with suggestions of what you could get for them. Be an angel for someone who needs love this Christmas...because after all, that's what Christmas is about!

Times: 9:00AM - 7:00PM  
Dates: Friday, December 16th - Sunday, December 18th, 2016



SHOP ONLINE  
[WWW.SHAMS.SX](http://WWW.SHAMS.SX)

ORDER ONLINE NOW



#13 Cannegieter Street  
[www.shams-sxm.com](http://www.shams-sxm.com)  
Tel: 1-721-543-0265  
Whatsapp: 1-721-524-4999

## CHRISTMAS SPECIALS!



**DAEWOO**

**Fridge**  
9.6 Cu. Ft. - \$399.99  
12.2 Cu. Ft. - \$499.99  
13.5 Cu. Ft. - \$599.99



**DAEWOO**

**Washing Machine**  
5kg - \$129.99  
7kg - \$159.99  
8kg - \$179.99  
10kg - \$199.99

ALL SPECIALS ARE VALID, UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST, 2016 OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

# CL Series Mini-Split System Daikin



## END OF SEASON SALE.

Limited quantity, HURRY, HURRY, while stock lasts.

**Daikin 9000 B.T.U.  
(No Inverter) \$265.00**

special includes 3mm copper pipe  
and golden fine coil.



COMFORT FOR LIFE



**PENGUIN  
AIR CONDITIONING**

LOCATED AT ACE HOME CENTER / A.J.C. BROUWERS RD. #13-B / TEL:543-7025/31



Go all out for  
**THE HOLIDAYS**

Enjoy that **NEW CAR**, **COMPUTER**,  
**HOME FURNISHINGS**, or **SPRUCE**  
**UP** your **HOME** in time for the  
Season!

MERRY  
Christmas



HOME  
FURNISHINGS

INVERTER  
APPLIANCES

NEW CAR

Finance with WIB  
Let us help you!

Attractive  
RATES

WE'LL CUSTOMIZE YOUR LOAN  
according to your needs.

Visit your preferred branch (Sales & Service officer) to apply today.

[www.wib-bank.net](http://www.wib-bank.net)






Keshana Hamer and Diandra Marlin.

## Marlin and Hamer to compete in separate regional pageants

PHILIPSBURG--First runner up in the 2016 Senior Carnival Queen pageant Keshana Hamer will be leaving the country today for St. Kitts to compete in the Miss Caribbean Carnival Queen Pageant at the St. Kitts Festival Village on December 17.

Hamer will compete against 11 other Caribbean islands in the categories ambassadorial wear, swimsuit, performing talent, evening gown and on stage interview.

Hamer, whose team consists of her sister Keoma and make-up artist and stylist Stacy-Ann Taylor have worked diligently to put her performance package together, Posh Productions said in a press release on Tuesday.

Reigning Miss Teen Car-

nival Queen and recently crowned Miss Dutch Caribbean Queen Diandra Marlin will be traveling to St. Kitts on Wednesday, December 28, to compete against ten other Caribbean islands in the Haynes Smith Miss Caribbean Talented Teen Pageant, which is set for December 30. Marlin and her team – which includes her mother Minerva and her chaperone Charissa Gumbs – “have worked tirelessly to ensure Diandra has another winning package as she competes in categories,” it was noted.

Posh Productions and the teams of the two delegates thanked everyone who was involved in making the two delegates participation in the pageants possible.

## Collectivité-LADOM looking towards reinforced partnership

MARIGOT--President of the Territorial Council Aline Hanson recently met with two executives of L'Agence De L'Outre Mer pour la Mobilité (LADOM), Director General Florus Nestar and Regional Director of LADOM Raoul Lebrave, to discuss actions relative to mobility and the impending convention to be signed between LADOM and the Collectivité.

The purpose of this meeting was to lay the new foundations for future collaboration, including from the perspective of evolution of the Accueil Information Orientation (AIO) service for the community in the current Mission Locale.

The need for mobility initiatives is not in doubt for both partners, as they respond to the concerns of the territory, especially concerning issues of vocational training and addressing structural deficiencies.

Hanson made clear the interest of the Collectivité for more mobility options, and made specific requests to the Director General about aid for athletes and candidates attending national competitions.

The Collectivité in its release said the visibility and mobilisation of initiatives was undeniable as proven by figures in 2015. Some 502 files for passports “Mobilité Etudes” were delivered (200 in 2011) and 415 files concerning “Continuité Territoriale” were realised (only 111 in 2011) and 60 passports delivered for Professional Training in 2015.

The signature of a convention, which will enact all these initiatives is planned for the end of February 2017. However, as soon as January 2017, the document will be finalised to clarify the principles of the partnership already in place for eight years. The LADOM-Collectivité of St. Martin partnership will thus continue in a more formal framework with a consideration on difficulties and specifics of the territory, in accordance with the areas of expertise of LADOM.



President Aline Hanson and Director of AIO Corinne Pineau (right) with LADOM executives (left) during their meeting.



A total of 32 staff members of Simpson Bay Resort recently became certified Emergency First Responders. The one-day course covered recognised life-threatening problems such as heart attack, cardiac arrest, stroke and airway obstruction – and how to deal with it when it occurs. Serious bleeding, spinal injury and shock management was also covered as part of the course. Time was spent on practising skills such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), chest compressions and rescue breaths. The use of the Automatic External Defibrillator was also part of the training. Several new Philips HS-1 AED machines were installed around the Resort. “In a big resort like this with guests 24 hours a day, there is a lot of things that can happen, so it's good that staff knows how to handle medical emergencies,” said Resort Security Manager Marvin Tackling. Course instructor was Sandra Volard Kruis.



### Hospital Visiting Hours

Medical/Surgical, ObGyn and Pediatric wards

11:30am-12:30pm  
3:30pm-4:30pm Children may visit  
6:00pm-7:30pm

S M  
M C

Intensive Care Unit  
10:00am-10:20am  
3:00pm-3:30pm  
8:00pm-8:20pm

We Care Together!

Tel: 543-1111 | www.smmc.xs

### St. Maarten Optical N.V. SXM OPTICAL



WITH ONLY ONE LOCATION FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

**EYE EXAMS**  
**RETINA PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**FREE**  
**GLAUCOMA TESTING**

PONDIFILL  
WALTER J.A. NISBETH ROAD #51  
PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN



1-721-542-2736

## Elshot

Continued from page 1.

have its due course and for justice to be served,” the union said.

The board urged the public to keep Elshot in their prayers “during this trying time and pray that she is released as soon as possible.”

Elshot and her son were arrested on Monday, December 5. Her son F.R.E (35), who is suspected of threat, was released on conditional dismissal on December 8, and will have to serve 50 hours of community service, but Elshot remains detained. Elshot appeared in front of the Judge of Instruction on Thursday, December 8, and in his decision on Friday, December 9, the judge prolonged her detention by eight days. She is suspected of threat, insult and libel.

## CONTEMPORARY-MODERN HOUSE

HOUSE FOR SALE \$630,000 - 7BD - 4BR:  
PRICED REDUCED FROM \$649,000 FOR QUICK SALE  
APPRAISED AT \$650,000  
TO BE SOLD AS IS

### DESCRIPTION:

This residential property in South Re-ward perched on a hill overlooking the valley of St. Peters with spectacular ocean views.

### FEATURES:

- Property has beautiful high ceilings, plenty of space for a growing family
- Possibility to separate each level for extra income
- Washer/dryer hookup
- Every level has its own private balcony and ocean view
- Plenty of natural light
- Car porch



For viewing and further information Contact: (721) 523-4436 or  
E-mail: burkwayag@gmail.com



Kooyman representatives present the gift to their first shopper on Saturday.

## Kooyman recognises first shopper at anniversary event

CAY HILL--Kooyman Megastore celebrated its tenth anniversary with an in-store celebration, featuring a 10 per cent store wide discount and recognition of its first ever shopper.

Shoppers were greeted to music as they entered the

Kooyman store. The event also featured a Fun Miles Activate and Win booth; the Kooyman Spin and Win Prize wheel and a Gift Card Give-away, where Kooyman awarded every tenth customer who walked-in between 3:00pm to 5:00pm

with a Kooyman gift card valued at US \$25.

Kooyman's Senior Management team from Curaçao wore their signature green polo shirts and spent the day in-store greeting customers and assisting at the Paint Department and manning the registers.

The day-long celebration came to a close when Kooyman St. Maarten's first ever customer, Sheryl Narine stopped by to receive a gift cheque valued at Naf. 1,000 as a token of appreciation for her continued support of the Kooyman Megastore.

Kooyman's tenth anniversary celebrations continues with an end of year car raffle where shoppers who spend US \$40 or more can get a chance to enter a raffle to win a brand new Hyundai Accent amongst other prizes.

## SZV to launch senior services desks in 2017

PHILIPSBURG--More than 120 persons recently attended a Social and Health Insurances SZV pension information session held at University of St. Martin (USM).

During the session SZV announced its plans to launch its senior services desks in 2017 where seniors- and pension related services can be requested and administered via a central point of contact for the customer. With this SZV said it expects that waiting time and the requirement of walking from one building to the next for one service will be reduced and in some cases even eliminated.

A range of issues were discussed at the session including the rights and obligations of customers as it relates to old-age, widow(er)s and orphan pension benefits as well as the lump sum payment also known as the funeral grant, SZV said in a press release on Monday.

SZV also highlighted the various application requirements and processes, calculation methods, considerations and additional services SZV offers to persons receiving pension abroad. SZV said pension benefit allocation and processing is "not mass production" as each request is processed individually ensuring that those who qualify receive their benefits, as is stipulated in the laws. The presentation of the pension infor-



Attendees at the event.

mation session is available via SZV's website [www.szv.sx](http://www.szv.sx).

During the question and answer segment, persons asked a wide range of questions and also shared their concerns and suggestions as it relates to medical coverage, application procedures, administrative obligations, tax administration, calculation of old-age pension amounts and customer service.

SZV said general questions were addressed directly. Persons with questions based on individual cases were processed the following day or via ap-

pointments which were scheduled directly during the information session.

A mixed-group of persons currently receiving pension benefits from SZV and those who have yet to reach the pensionable age were in attendance, SZV said.

SZV said it will host more information sessions in 2017, each covering a new service topic where it has been indicated by customers that more clarity is desired. SZV urged customers to fill in its customer satisfaction survey available at:

[www.szv.sx](http://www.szv.sx) on the customer service page.

## Family Fun Night!

### Every Friday and Saturday

at Seaside Nature Park  
in Cay Bay from 5pm -10pm.

Kids karaoke, pony rides, campfire on the beach to roast marshmallows, hot dogs, drinks and snacks on sale. Come experience outdoor fun.

**BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY.**

## V A C A N C Y

### Michmar Agencies N.V. is looking for a: **Carpenter**

- Performing carpentry related tasks and objectives on work/construction site.
- Must have minimum 3 years working experience in same capacity.
- Must have extensive knowledge in Construction carpentry.
- Must be able to undergo strenuous work.
- Must be able to read construction diagrams and drawings pertaining to carpentry.
- Must have minimum trade school education.

All applications should be in before December 19th, 2016.

Applicants should be of Dutch nationality or in possession of a valid employment permit. Qualified applicants could submit their resume and application to our office located at:  
Yogesh Commercial Complex, Unit 1K,  
A.J.C. Brouwers Road #4. Call: 1 (721) 542-6553 or  
E-mail: [frontdesk-michmarnv@hotmail.com](mailto:frontdesk-michmarnv@hotmail.com).

Please forward a copy of your resume/application to the Labour Office (with all certificates and/or references).

## V A C A N C Y

### Ramraj & Sons N.V. is looking for an: **Auto Mechanic**

#### Must have:

- Excellent knowledge of mechanical, electrical and electronic components of vehicles.
- 5 plus years hands on experience in the field.
- Working knowledge of vehicle diagnostic systems and methods.
- The ability to handle various tools and heavy equipment.
- Willingness to observe all safety precautions for protections against accidents, dangerous fluids, chemicals etc.
- Excellent physical condition.
- Certification from a vocational school or trade school.

All applications should be in before  
December 23rd, 2016.

Applicants should be of Dutch nationality or in possession of a valid employment permit. Qualified applicants could submit their resume and application to our office located at:  
Yogesh Commercial Complex, Unit 1K,  
A.J.C. Brouwers Road #4  
Call: 1 (721) 542-6553 or e-mail:  
[frontdesk-michmarnv@hotmail.com](mailto:frontdesk-michmarnv@hotmail.com).

Please forward a copy of your resume/application to the Labour Office (with all certificates and/or references).



Francesco Corallo after his arrest on Tuesday.

## Corallo arrested

Continued from page 1.

part of an international co-ordinated action in Italy, St. Maarten, the Netherlands and French St. Martin, the Prosecutor's Office said.

Several searches also took place in French St. Martin led by an Investigative Judge. There is where Baetsen, who was born in the Netherlands, was arrested.

Searches were also conducted in Italy and suspects have been arrested there. An office building was also searched in Amsterdam.

These actions are the result of a partnership which began six months ago between the

Prosecutor's Offices of Italy, the Netherlands and St. Maarten. The Anti-corruption Unit of the Attorney General's Office acted in line with this partnership

as it relates to the arrests, searches and seizures.

The international cooperation between Italy, St. Maarten, French St. Martin and the

Netherlands fits into the joint, intensive approach to combat cross-border corruption and fraud also called "undermining." Undermining, including corruption and money-laundering pose a serious threat

to the security and economy of the countries in the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom, the Prosecutor's Office said.

The TBO of the RST, the National Detectives Agencies of Curaçao and St. Maarten and the Prosecutor's Office are partners in the fight against undermining.



# Boekhoudt says farewell, ready for new beginning

THE HAGUE--Not a farewell, but rather a new beginning. That is how the recently resigned Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba and new Aruba Governor Alfonso Boekhoudt called his departure from The Hague to take up a new challenge in Oranjestad during his speech at a reception in his honour on Tuesday.

"I am closing this chapter in my career and my life. I had no idea that my three-

year adventure would be cut short, nor did I have any notion that this new challenge would cross my path," said Boekhoudt (51) of his career switch.

His appointment per January 1, 2017, a unilateral decision by the Kingdom Council of Ministers, caused major friction between the Dutch and Aruba Government, because Boekhoudt was not the main candidate proposed by Oranjestad.

The differences were settled in an urgent meeting of Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk and Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman. Boekhoudt had to resign per November 1 after the Aruba Government withdrew its confidence in him. Boekhoudt was succeeded by Juan David Yrausquin last month.

Minister Plasterk referred to the exceptional situation where the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK hosted a farewell reception for a departed Minister Plenipotentiary of another country in the Kingdom. Plasterk acknowledged that it was not customary to organise a reception on such an occasion.

"But not everything is a precedent and sometimes you have to do things differently," said Plasterk in his address to the large group of invited guests at Escher in the Palace, a museum which in the past has served as the working palace of Princesses and later Queens Wilhelmina, Juliana and Beatrix.

Plasterk said the Minister Plenipotentiary had a complicated position where he had to serve both the interest of his own country as well as that of the Kingdom. "He is a key person in the Kingdom. He ensures that talks proceed." He predicted that "challenging times with different political movements" were awaiting the Kingdom. In times like these cooperation is a must, he added.

The Minister said that Boekhoudt whom he said has "a big heart for the public cause" would be playing a large and important role as

Governor. "It is a special position. Everyone looks at the Governor. He is the one who keeps everything together and acts in the interest of the Kingdom," he said.

Boekhoudt stated that one of his main reasons for coming to the Netherlands three years ago was his very ill son who required urgent medical treatment. Boekhoudt, who was Director of the Aruba Ports Authority, said he saw an opportunity to do something for his country in the Netherlands. He said that the transition from the harbour company to the political arena in The Hague felt strange in the beginning.

In the almost three years that Boekhoudt was Minister Plenipotentiary, he played a pivotal role in achieving different successes for the Kingdom and for Aruba. He mentioned the several business opportunities that were secured for Aruba through the cooperation with companies such as the Seaway Heavy Lifting, the Lelystad HeliCentre and the Amsterdam Harbour Company.

Boekhoudt did face several challenges during his tenure. He said that especially the start was a bit "rough" with the instruction of the Kingdom Council of Ministers for the Aruba Government to get its finances in order. "The government finances were very much in the picture. It was quite difficult to fulfill my role as Minister Plenipotentiary."

Another challenge involved the events that surrounded the death of Aruba-born Mitch Henriquez who succumbed at the hands of Dutch police officers when



Departed Minister Plenipotentiary and new Governor of Aruba Alfonso Boekhoudt (second from right) with his wife Hanneke Boekhoudt, Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Affairs Ronald Plasterk (left) and Chairman of the Dutch entrepreneurs organisation Ondernemend Nederland ONL Hans Biesheuvel (second from left) at Tuesday's reception. (Suzanne Koelega photo)

he was arrested at a festival in a park in The Hague in June 2015.

In closing, Boekhoudt said that the reception served as a closure of his period as Minister Plenipotentiary, but that it also felt as a new beginning, as the next Governor of Aruba. "I am very honoured that I am given this opportunity in the interest of Aruba and of the Kingdom."

Chairman of the Dutch entrepreneurs organisation Ondernemend Nederland ONL Hans Biesheuvel was the first one to address the gathering as, he said, "a friend of Aruba." He praised the Aruba Government and Boekhoudt for their efforts to achieve more and better economic opportunities within the Kingdom.

Biesheuvel said that Boekhoudt had done "a lot of good things" for Aruba and the Kingdom. "You greatly

contributed to building economic opportunities that were not based on emotions, but on possibilities." Biesheuvel specifically mentioned the agreement that was signed last week with the Dutch micro-financing institution Qredits to open an office in Oranjestad in March 2017. Qredits, which already has opened a successful branch in Bonaire last year, will contribute to the strengthening of Aruba's entrepreneurs.

Tuesday's reception was attended by several ambassadors and representatives of the Governments of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten, including the Ministers Plenipotentiary Yrausquin of Aruba and Marveline Wiels of Curaçao. St. Maarten's Minister Plenipotentiary Henrietta Doran-York was absent.

## Govt. needs to admit

Continued from page 1.

is time for definitive action to be taken to safeguard the health of the country.

She also questioned the status of the court case between Government and Windward Roads Infrastructure related to the preparation of the waste-to-energy project.

A solid waste management authority should be established to guide the project, she said.

Wescot-Williams declared that she could not begin to address the governing programme that is supposed to be based on the budget, "but the budget has nothing." This sentiment, she said, was shared with her coalition partners in a recent meeting.

The budget debates over the years are becoming "more and more depressing" and "now it's like 'let's get it [the budget - Ed.] out of our sight,'" the MP said, adding that her position on the budget itself had changed since the start of the debate, although she did not explain this stance further.

She urged Government to

see 2017 as "a turnaround year." To make this turnaround possible, Government "must be smart ... clever."

The DP leader minced no words in chiding Government for chopping some Naf. 600,000 from the budget of Parliament for 2017. While she is in favour of curbing Parliamentary travel, such a slash should have been left up to Parliament which controls its budget.

In response to the slash, she has called on all seven ministries to contribute Naf. 50,000 each to a pot "to establish English as the first and mother tongue of the country." Government was also told to instruct all high councils of state and other councils to produce reports and advices in English.

Government's decision to suspend talks with the French side on the development of a joint sewage treatment facility came under fire from Wescot-Williams. "I can't support this," she told her coalition partners. "You will have to come a little better."

**Pasanggrahan Royal**  
FRONT STREET 15 • PHILIPSBURG • ST. MAARTEN  
TEL: 721-542-3588/721-542-2743 FAX: 721-542-2885

**PRIME RIB - PRIME RIB - PRIME RIB**  
**EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT**  
at the Pasanggrahan Bar & Restaurant  
with Live Soft Steel Pan Dinner Music

**QUEEN'S CUT \$21.95**  
**KING'S CUT \$24.95**

Served with soup of the day or house salad or Caesar salad.  
Sides includes: baked potatoes & fresh vegetables.  
DINNER: 6:00-10:00PM.



Our regular menu is also available.  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED- TEL: # 5423588/5422743  
Happy Hour from 5-7pm.

**Caribbean Lottery** Play with us... Win with us! Tuesday December 13th, 2016

All results posted in the press are manually entered and are subject to error. At all times Results must be validated with the Caribbean Lottery

DAILY GAMES		PICK 3	PICK 4
<b>MORNING</b>	DRAW # 18503	DRAW # 16374	
PRIZE:1	2-9-8	9-2-8-1	
2	0-8-3	9-0-6-3	
3	9-7-7	3-2-5-0	
<b>MIDDAY</b>	DRAW # 18504	DRAW # 16375	
PRIZE:1	8-4-2	2-1-6-5	
2	3-8-3	7-6-6-7	
3	9-7-6	6-1-5-2	
<b>SUNSET</b>	DRAW # 18505	DRAW # 16376	
PRIZE:1	9-5-3	5-7-4-9	
2	5-4-8	3-5-5-0	
3	1-2-2	1-3-5-8	
<b>EVENING</b>	DRAW # 18506	DRAW # 16377	
PRIZE:1	8-6-5	2-2-8-5	
2	4-2-5	6-4-7-0	
3	8-0-8	2-0-8-7	

**JACKPOT**

DRAW # 748  
DRAW DATE: December 13th, 2016

12 13 19 20 25 10

SUPER BALL

**\$1,920,000**

JACKPOT FOR NEXT DRAW

Become a Super Millionaire!

**NOTES**

Over \$3.5 MILLION

In prizes remaining to be won on these games



Get your share of the winning now.

www.thecaribbeanlottery.com Must be 18 or older to buy or redeem Lottery tickets



St. Martin Tourism Office Director, Kate Richardson (centre) stands next to the French Ambassador to Argentina, Pierre-Henri Guignard (left). Also present in the photo are Jean-Philippe Perol of Atout France (right) next to model Ingrid Grudke. Marcela Suarez, in charge of tourism promotion for St. Martin (second to left) is next to Aida Weinum in charge of the United States and South American markets.

## New representative promotes St. Martin in South America

MARIGOT--St. Martin Tourism Office Director Kate Richardson and Aida Weinum, responsible for the Americas markets, visited Buenos Aires from November 28 to December 2, to report on the promotional activities in South America.

The tourism office noted Marcelo Suarez has been based in Buenos Aires for six months already on behalf of St. Martin Tourism Office to boost interest in the island in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.

"We noted fewer Brazilians were coming to St. Martin and that it was necessary to work differently on the South American market, while maintaining the presence of a representative in Brazil," Kate Richardson

explained.

In recession since the end of 2014, Brazil is facing a serious economic, social and political crisis that has forced St. Martin to quickly strengthen its actions to promote tourism in other markets in Latin America, the office added in its release.

"This has been encouraged by the growing enthusiasm of the Argentines for our destination; a potential the Office of Tourism intends to exploit in order to boost visitor numbers in the low-season.

"The goal is to even-out the seasonality by generating an influx of visitors at the period when the island needs them most and which implies a special effort to maintain this South American market," Richardson

stated.

The Tourism Office took advantage of this visit to create a real "buzz" around the destination.

On December 1, a key date of the trip, Kate Richardson and Aida Weinum participated in an evening of "networking" at the French Embassy in Buenos Aires, in partnership with Atout France, the French tourism development agency.

Persons who were present, in addition to the Ambassador of France in Argentina, Pierre-Henri Guignard, were tour operators, journalists from trade magazines, opinion leaders and a certain number of celebrities including model Ingrid Grudke who had already visited our island.

## Dutch go to Curaçao this Christmas season

RIJSWIJK--The Dutch Caribbean, and especially Curaçao, is a highly popular destination for the Dutch tourist this Christmas vacation, the TUI airline announced on Monday.

Many Dutch people go abroad during the holidays, and the majority opts for a vacation in the sun. The so-called ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao), mainly Curaçao, rank number three in the top three of the Netherlands largest tour operator, TUI.

Spain, especially the Canary Islands, tops the list, followed by Austria where people go for a vacation in the snow. More than 30 per cent of all holiday travellers

from the Netherlands goes to Spain, which is five per cent more compared to last year.

Gran Canaria is by far the most popular individual destination of the Dutch traveller this season. "A warm climate after a flight of some four hours is very attractive. But people also don't flinch to fly to Curaçao in less than ten hours in order to be sure of a warm sun and sea," TUI stated in a release. TUI has seven flights per week to Curaçao. The airline executes four flights per week to Aruba and three to Bonaire.

Fast growing destinations for TUI this holiday season are: the Cape Verde Islands, Portugal and Finland. TUI also released the main vacation

destinations for other countries in Europe. The French tend to spend the holidays in Morocco, the Swedish love to go to Thailand for Christmas, while the Swiss opt for the Maldives. The Germans like to stay home, but cruises are popular.

The Canary Islands are not only a favourite among the Dutch traveller, but also in neighbouring countries. Gran Canaria ranks number one in the Netherlands, France and Sweden. The Germans mainly prefer Fuerteventura for a winter break while the British opt for Tenerife. The Irish choose Lanzarote as their most popular sun destination.

## K1 Britannia's Christmas Angels programme Friday to Sunday

PHILIPSBURG--The K1 Britannia Foundation will host its third annual Christmas Angels programme this Friday, December 16, to Sunday, December 18, at the Clem Labega Square in front of the old Government Administration Building from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

The Foundation's Christmas tree will be filled with about 600 little angels, each of which represents a foster child, Sister Basilia Center clients, St. Martin's Home residents, children under Social Services and underprivileged children "who need some extra love this Christmas," the Foundation said.

This year, the Department of Social Services and K1 Britannia collaborated and added 200 angels, which were handmade and which represent children aged 13 and younger under Social Services.

The public may visit the Clem Labega Square to choose an angel that they would like, go out and buy a present for the child or senior it represents and in return they will get to keep the angel as a gift from that person to you.

"The Christmas Angels programme enables the community to feel the impact one single act can have on another child or elder. What makes it special is

that each child will receive a gift that individual thought of and care was put into showing them that yes, they do matter," the Foundation said.

The K1 Britannia Foundation said it is passionate about bringing the community together with this simple act of kindness which will enable the public to experience the joy of sharing

and showing love to those who need it most. "This act of kindness will undeniably have a long-standing effect on you and each person who made an angel. You'll think you're blessing the child or elder that made this angel, and you will, but don't underestimate how this will positively impact your life for the better."



Dino Arrundell of Captain D's Rib Shack in Simpson Bay helped spread some holiday cheer to the Leonald Connor School on Tuesday, December 13, when he donated a Christmas tree, stand, lights and decorations to the school. Cycle 1 Year 3A students accepted the tree from Arrundell so that they can celebrate the Christmas season in their class. Class teacher Elisia Lake thanked Arrundell for the donation. In photo, Arrundell poses with Lake, pupils and the donated items.

## FirstCaribbean donates US \$18,000 to St. Maarten Cancer Foundation

PHILIPSBURG--CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank has donated US \$18,000 to the St. Maarten Cancer Foundation.

This is the fifth year the bank has donated to the foundation from the bank's Walk for the Cure programme, which aims to provide support for those fighting cancer and create awareness across the region.

The St. Maarten Cancer Foundation's main objective is "to promote in the widest sense of the word the awareness among the general public with regard to cancer." Their main focus next year will be a "Cancer Support Group and Volunteer Drive Training."

The foundation "is very pleased" with the fact that various institutions and



CIBC FCIB representative La-Teen Clarke, St. Maarten Cancer Foundation representative Shermina Powell-Richardson, CIBC FCIB Country Manager Heidi Getrow and CIBC FCIB representative Alphons Gumbs.

businesses are placing health and awareness campaigns regarding various types of diseases on their agenda, it was stated in a press release.

The fifth annual CIBC FirstCaribbean Walk for the Cure saw thousands of walkers and runners engaged in organised events

across the 16 territories where the bank is located.

Regionally the walk generated US \$500,000 which will be donated to various charities and organisations across the region involved in the detection, treatment and care of persons affected by cancer and their families.

# CHRISTMAS PROMOTION



## KAM'S FOODWORLD

Specialized in Indian, Arabic Groceries & More...

W.J.A Nisbeth Road, #95 Pondfill, St.Maarten ☎ +1(721) 542-2629 ✉ info@kamsfoodworld.com



# GET A CHANCE TO WIN

# WHEN YOU BUY ANY TWO PRODUCTS FROM



## IPHONE 7



Draw date: 30th January 2017.

\*The actual product may differ from the image displayed.

# Ideal for Cooking!

**Crisco Organic Coconut Oil**  
is sourced from finest natural  
coconuts harvested by hand.



27 oz






**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

# YOUR € CARTE U X3\*

**\*\*"CART" ADVANTAGE :** OR € 0.30 on "€ Carte U" per €30 spent in shopping  
**\*\*"VISIT" ADVANTAGE :** OR € 0.30 on "€ Carte U" by spending €5 in shopping

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, on presentation of your "Carte U", tripple your "Visit Advantage" of €0.30 Carte U with €5 purchase and tripple the "Carte Advantage" of €0.30 Carte U per €30 spent in shopping. Valid all in on time only and per U Account in all U Supermarkets participating in the Loyalty Program. See "Carte U" conditions.

**SUPER U** *The shopping that benefits everyone!*



**CHECKS** **1,00€ = \$1,05** **ACCEPTED**

Super U 75, C. Cial Howell Center  
 ZI Galisbay 97150 Saint-Martin  
 Tél (+590) 590 29 54 32  
 Open on Monday to Saturday  
 from 8 am to 8 pm

**OPEN SUNDAY**  
 December 18  
 from 8am to 12:45pm  
 & from 4pm to 7pm  
**OPEN HOLIDAYS**  
 from 8am to 8pm

**JIFFY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY**  
**DECEMBER 17TH, 8AM - 2PM**

**Jiffy Service Center**

**20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**


1996 - 2016

**RAFFLE DRAWING 1PM**

**20% DISCOUNT ON ALL SERVICES THE WHOLE DAY**

**DRINKS, SNACKS, CAKE AND MUSIC**

Situated at A.Th. Illidge Road #96, Lower Princess Quarter, St. Maarten, Dutch Caribbean  
 Tel/Fax: (+1-721) 542-7031 • Cel: (+1-721) 527-4928 / 554-7429



**SUPER U**  
 Howell Center

**OPEN THIS SUNDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**FROM 8AM TO 12:45PM & FROM 4PM TO 7PM.**

Your bakery "AU PAIN GOURMAND" is open from 7am to 1pm.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**1,00€ = \$1,05**

**THE SHOPPING THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE.**



# AGENDA

- ST. EUSTATIUS**  
**Police Station** 182333  
**Emergency** 111  
**Hot Line** 108  
**Fire Department** 120  
**Hospital** 182211/182371  
**Landsradio** 182210  
**Post Office** 182207  
**St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum** 182288  
**Winair Office** 182362  
**Lions Club** meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport  
**Drug Prevention Foundation** meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.  
**Coastguard NA&A** 113  
**St. Eustatius National parks:** Gallows Bay: 318 2884
- SABA**  
**Police Station**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4163237  
**Emergency** 111/112  
**Hospital**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289  
**Fire Department Airport**  
 Flat Point tel. 4162210  
**SATEL**  
**The Bottom**, tel. 4163211  
**WINAIR, Airport**  
 Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713  
**Taxi Service Airport**  
 Flat Point, tel. 160  
**Administration Building**  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313  
**Tourist Office**  
 Windwardside, tel. 4162231  
**Harbour Office**  
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163294  
**Saba Marine Park**  
 Fort Bay, tel. 4163295  
**Nature & Hike Guide**  
 James Johnson  
 The Bottom, tel. 4163307  
**Service Club**  
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.  
**Coastguard NA&A** 113  
**Red Cross**  
 General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m., Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
- ANGUILLA**  
**EMERGENCY**  
**Police** 911  
**Fire** 911  
**Ambulance** 911  
**Police Station** 497 2333  
**Hospital** 497 2551  
**Dental clinic** 497 2343  
**Radio Anguilla** 497 2218  
**Tourism Department** 497 2759  
**Crimestoppers** 0800 7777777
- AIRLINES**  
 American Eagle 497 3501  
 Winair 497 2748  
 Liat 497 5000  
 Air Anguilla 497 2643  
 Trans Anguilla 497 8690  
**COURIER SERVICE**  
 DHL 497 3400  
 Federal Express 497 2719  
 UPS 497 2239  
**SERVICE CLUBS**  
**Rotary Club of Anguilla**  
 Meets at Da Vida every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Subscribe to  
  
**PHONE 5425253**

## Bumper sticker campaign to bring awareness to endangered iguanas



Acting Island Governor Julian Woodley (left) receiving the "Give Iguanas a brake" bumper sticker.

ST. EUSTATIUS--St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation Stenapa and the International Reptile Conservation Foundation have developed a bumper sticker to bring awareness to the endangered iguanas on the island.

Acting Island Governor Julian Woodley has shown his

support by placing the very first sticker, presented to him by Stenapa, on the bumper of his vehicle.

"Give Iguanas a brake!!" is emblazoned in bright green letters across the sticker. It features a picture of St. Eustatius' endangered Lesser Antillean iguana, asking drivers to

"Slow for crossing Iguanas." Many iguanas die on the road. They slowly cross to reach different areas of food or nesting sites and may get hit by careless drivers.

"Population numbers of our local iguana are small so even one accident on the road can have a huge impact on the population," said Stenapa's Education and Outreach Officer Hannah Fairley. "Join the Governor and show that you are a careful driver and brake for crossing iguanas by adding one of our stickers to your bumper," she said.

Stenapa is giving away this brand new bumper sticker in town outside Windward Islands Bank and at Sugar Town on December 19 and 20, 11:30am-12:00pm. They hope to see everyone giving iguanas a brake.

## More questions for Central Committee



Current Acting Secretary General to the Island Council Militzia Connell-Maduro.

ST. EUSTATIUS--The agenda for this week's meeting of the Island Council's Central Committee stoked more questions from Committee members than answers from the two Commissioners. Agenda items centred on the appointment of a second Acting Island Council secretary and the second budget amendment for 2016.

The presence of Xavier Blackman in the meeting as newly appointed unit process manager of the Plan of Approach raised some opposition eyebrows; however, Committee members were assured by Chairman Reuben Merkman that Blackman's position had been approved by Dutch Government Representative Gilbert Isabella.

As for the choice of the second Acting Secretary-General for the Island Council, this would be decided at the forthcoming Island Council which would, in all probability, convene this Friday.

Current Acting Secretary General Militzia Connell-Maduro is due to return to the Netherlands to further training in the near future,

hence the need for a temporary administrative replacement.

Debate on the second budget amendment was stalled by the requirement from Committee for Financial Supervision CFT to approve such expenditure.

Newly-appointed Finance Commissioner Charles Woodley reported that he was waiting for this approval before the amendment could be presented and discussed on the floor of the Island Council. Nevertheless, Woodley stressed his concern that quite a few foundations on St. Eustatius had received budget cuts of at least 50 per cent. He promised to review the way these decisions had been taken and relay his findings to the Island Council.

Opinion on local telecommunications was less satisfactory. The addition of 319 mobile telephone numbers had provoked general confusion and public irritation. Commissioner of Telecommunication Derrick Simmons was equally perturbed and would seek explanations for this confusion.

Regarding the future of

telecommunications on the island Simmons was more upbeat. During a recent visit to the Netherlands he had discussed the possibility of investment by national Dutch telecom operator KPN. "We are ready to get round the table with KPN and discuss opportunities," he announced.

Koos Sneek of opposition Democratic Party (DP) welcomed the news. "KPN is willing to invest US \$3 million in improving our telecom network," he told *The Daily Herald*. "The company wants a foothold in the Caribbean Netherlands and St. Eustatius would play a central role in achieving such an ambition. Benefits in terms of greater efficiency and cheaper user costs could be significant," said Sneek.

Central Committee members intend to discuss the future with the management of St. Eustatius' telecom provider EUTEL.

## Island Council convenes Friday

ST. EUSTATIUS--The Island Council of St. Eustatius will be holding a meeting at V.A. Lopes Legislative Hall on Friday, December 16, at 9:30am.

Main item on the agenda will be the appointment of a second Acting Secretary General to the Island Council, Chairman of the Island Council Acting Island Governor Julian Woodley announced.



José Rosales.

## José Rosales to become KPCN Chief of Police

SABA/ST. EUSTATIUS--Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur in his capacity as a Police Force Manager will, this week, nominate Jose Rosales to King Willem Alexander for appointment as Chief of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force.

Rosales' appointment will go into effect on January 1, 2017. During his visit to Bonaire on January 12, 2017, Minister Van der Steur will officially install the new Chief of Police for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

Following the departure of former Chief of Police Hildgard Buitink, Rosales has been Acting Police Chief since March 1; he previously served as a Deputy Police Chief.



**PRIME RIB MONDAY**  
 CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF DONE TO PERFECTION  
**\$21.99**  
 AVAILABLE AFTER 5PM

---

**LOBSTER MANIA TUESDAY**  
 CARIBBEAN LOBSTER  
**\$19.99**  
 AVAILABLE ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT!

---

**WEDNESDAY STEAK SPECIAL**

	NEW YORK STRIP	\$25.99
	T-BONE	\$26.99
	FILET MIGNON	\$28.99
	RIBEYE	\$30.99
	PORTER HOUSE	\$31.99

AVAILABLE ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT!

---

**PRIME RIB THURSDAY**  
 CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF DONE TO PERFECTION  
**\$21.99**  
 AVAILABLE AFTER 5PM

---

**LOBSTER MANIA FRIDAY**  
 CARIBBEAN LOBSTER  
**\$19.99**  
 AVAILABLE ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT!

---

**HAPPY HOUR every DAY**  
**4:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M., ALL DRINKS 2 FOR 1**  
**REDUCED PRICE APPETIZERS**

---

**Bobby's Marina, Philipsburg**  
**Tel: 542-2941**  
**Simpson Bay next to Atrium**  
**Tel: 544-4173**  
**FREE PARKING**



*Kabinet van de Gouverneur van Sint Maarten*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cabinet of the Governor of Sint Maarten hereby makes the following announcement.

For the *Holiday Season* the Office and the Consular Department of the Cabinet of the Governor of Sint Maarten will be closed on the following dates:

- *The Consular Department;*  
Thursday, December 15th, 2016 –  
**Naturalization Ceremony**

- *The Office and the Consular Department;*  
Monday, December 26th, 2016 – **Boxing Day**

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

The following business day regular business hours will resume. The office hours are from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Consular Department walk-in hours are from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.



*The "Drum" case regarding the shooting death of police officer Freddy Bakx during an apparent armed robbery last August 17 in Bonaire will continue with the directional session on February 24, the judge decided at a preliminary hearing held on the island under tight security measures, because the investigation was still ongoing. The actual trial of seven suspects, six Venezuelans and one native, is now scheduled for May 15-17.*



*Los Angeles Dodgers Major League Baseball (MLB) closing pitcher Kenley Jansen of Curaçao was joined by teammates Justin Turner, Yasiel Puig and Scott Van Slyke on his native island last weekend. They put on their finest to attend Jansen's (in centre with bride) wedding.*

NOW AVAILABLE AT **Nature's Discount**  
NUTRITION CENTER

## Flora Floradix Kinder Love Children's Multivitamin



- Rich in Vitamins A, B, C, D & E
- Good Source of Calcium
- Herbal Extracts & Fruit Juices

119B Welfare Road,  
Cole Bay, St. Maarten  
Tel: (1-721) 544-3169  
Fax: (1-721) 544-3170

32 Cannegieter Street,  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten  
Tel: (1-721) 543-0269  
Fax: (1-721) 543-0270

E-mail: [info@naturesdiscountsxm.com](mailto:info@naturesdiscountsxm.com)  
Like us on facebook  
[www.naturesdiscount.com](http://www.naturesdiscount.com)

## School gyms being rebuilt

BONAIRE--The reconstruction of the gyms of the School Community Bonaire SGB at Kaya Oldulfinus was officially started by tearing down the old changing rooms.

Due to the poor state of the construction a complete rebuilding of the sports facilities is necessary. The two halls will be demolished at floor level and reconstructed. The changing rooms will be completely renewed.

The new gyms are to be naturally ventilated. That means that no air conditioning is applied because the building is designed in such a way that the wind can eliminate the heat. For better acoustics sound-absorbing materials are being processed in the halls.

The renewed sport areas are expected to be ready mid-November 2017. The upgrading of the outdoor sports field will be handled by the school itself.

Other accommodations projects planned for SGB include the expansion of the "Liseo Boneriano" at Kaya Amsterdam, so that the MAVO, HAVO and



*At the project's launch.*

VVO can be housed here. The renovation/construction of the housing of the VMBO, MBO and SPL at the Kaya Frater Odulfinus is also on the table.

These projects for SGB are part of the education housing plan for Bonaire, which is jointly financed by the Public Entity of Bonaire and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science OCV.

National real estate company ("Rijksvastgoedbedrijf") is coordinating the implementation of the various projects that are part of this plan on behalf

of the public entity of Bonaire and OCV. Previously finalised education housing projects in other locations on Bonaire are the renovation of the San Bernardo School in 2014, the new construction for the "Strea Briante" (formerly Watanpana) school and the new construction for "Skol Amplio Papa Cornes."

The rebuilding of the SGB gyms is executed in collaboration with contractor Bonned Haafkes VOF and the design is by Streefkerk Architects & Consultants in collaboration with DMV architects.



*Now Open*



**ASHLEY FURNITURE GALLERY NOW AVAILABLE AT BOTH CAY HILL AND COLE BAY LOCATIONS.**

# Spread the gift of Hello

Get more talk time to a destination for only \$20

Text 3 to 2255 and get 80 mins talk time to Jamaica 

- Expiration date varies per purchase
- Pre-paid subscribers only
- Text not limited to one destination
- Promo ends Dec 31, 2016

**TELCell**  
When you want more!

telcell.nv Call 611 or 546-0100 ext.1 for more info.



Discover the Paradise of St. Maarten with Divi Little Bay

- Three Restaurants
- Three Freshwater Pools
- Shopping Promenade
- Fully Equipped Kitchens
- Tennis Courts
- Fitness Room & Equipment
- Activity & Water Sports Center

Beautiful Divi Little Bay Beach Resort is currently seeking professional and enthusiastic individuals focused on service excellence for the position of:

## HOUSEKEEPING COORDINATOR

Candidates need to:

- Be experienced in hotel housekeeping standards
- Be proficient with Excel, Word, and Hotel software
- Be a team player and demonstrate a positive attitude
- Demonstrate positive leadership skills, for yourself and others
- Take pride in housekeeping services and guest experiences
- Focus on detail and be able to multi task
- Be willing to work flexible shifts; evenings, weekends and holidays

We prefer only valid (work) permit and passport holders to apply. Dutch permit holders required and indefinite papers are a plus.

Please pick up your application form at our HR office and drop off attn. Diana Heemskerk or e-mail your resume and motivational letter to [diana.mooij@diviresorts.com](mailto:diana.mooij@diviresorts.com).

# Happy Holidays From the USM Family




The University of St. Martin will be Closed during the Holiday season  
Friday December 16, 2016 - Wednesday January 3, 2017

~ Wishing all a safe Christmas & New Year ~



# Inter-ministerial group meets to discuss youth policy development

ST. KITTS--Senior officials and technical officers from various government departments got a better understanding of youth mainstreaming and the role of their respective agencies in youth development when they engaged in an inter-ministerial meeting at Fisherman's Wharf, on Friday, December 9.

The session was led by consultant Dwynette Eversley who is assisting the Department of Youth Empowerment to validate the draft Federal Youth Policy (2013) and make changes where necessary. A wide cross-section of

officials from the Departments of Culture, Gender Affairs, National Security, Information Technology, Labour, Agriculture; the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force, Her Majesty's Prison and other entities attended the one-day consultation. Eversley gave the participants a better understanding of how their programmes, policies, actions and investments should reflect the aspirations of the youth population.

"Once that is understood, once that becomes part of the culture of doing business in ministries and de-

partments in the public sector in general we will have a better framework for youth development across all sectors," she said.

The meeting was described by some participants as productive and enlightening. A similar session is earmarked for Nevis with officials from the Nevis Island Administration. Consultations with groups and individuals on the draft Federal Youth Policy continue over the next few weeks with a number of focus group sessions.



Stakeholders at the meeting.

## First-time homeowners eligible for Discounted VAT Rate Day after all

NEVIS--First-time homeowners under the duty-free concession in Nevis are advised that they are now eligible for the Inland Revenue Department's Discounted Value Added Tax (VAT) Rate Day on December 16.

The amendment comes on the heels of a press release from the St. Kitts and Nevis Inland Revenue Department dated December 6.

It stated that first-time homeowners would not be eligible for the Discounted VAT Rate Day

(five per cent) and goods purchased duty-free under the First Time Homeowner initiative would attract the standard rate of 17 per cent VAT.

For more information concerning application and registration for Discounted VAT Rate Day, kindly contact the Inland Revenue Department, Taxpayer Services Unit at 469-5856, 469-5521 ext. 5010, e-mail [ird@niagov.com](mailto:ird@niagov.com) or visit our website at [www.sknird.com](http://www.sknird.com).

**30th Anniversary**

**PRIME TIME WITH Beverly**

TELEVISION HOST - PRODUCER

Your favourite TV host for over 30 years

YouTube: Prime Time with Beverly

Facebook: Beverly Hyman

Phone: 520-2236 or 588-1427

Email: [Primetv55@yahoo.com](mailto:Primetv55@yahoo.com)

Cable TV channel 15 Wed 8:30pm Sun 7:30pm

MSR Channel 9 Thur 8:30pm Sun 8:30pm

## Christmas shopping and Gift ideas

**RBC Security Guarantee**

100% Reimbursement for unauthorized transactions\* in RBC Online & Mobile Banking

**RBC's Mobile App gives you an easier way to bank!**

With the RBC Caribbean Mobile Banking App, you can easily make credit card payments, as well as:

- › Send cash to other RBC customers
- › View your account balances and transaction history
- › Pay your bills
- › Wire funds internationally
- › And much more

For more information or to enrol now visit [caribbeandigital.rbc.com](http://caribbeandigital.rbc.com)

Download the RBC Caribbean App FREE for your Android and iOS devices at

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

**RBC** | **Royal Bank**

\* For a definition of an unauthorized transaction & for full details regarding the protections and limitations of the RBC Security Guarantee for Online and Mobile Banking, please see your Electronic Banking Agreement with the applicable entity. © Registered trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence.



Deputy Premier of Nevis and Minister of Tourism Mark Brantley at a sitting of the Nevis Island Assembly (file photo).

## NIA continues to enhance visitor experience on Nevis

NEVIS--The Nevis Island Administration (NIA), through the Ministry of Tourism, continues to make strides in enhancing the visitor experience on Nevis.

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Tourism Mark Brantley said at the recent sitting of the Nevis Is-

land Assembly, that in terms of security, a Beach Security system has been implemented on Pinney's Beach, the island's main beach.

"Closed-circuit TV (CCTV) cameras have been installed there to complement the work of the security officers.

"It is critical that patrons to

the beach have a safe experience. We have employed an additional four security officers on the beach and police patrols are now conducted every two hours, owing to the new and ongoing partnership between the beach security officers and the Cotton Ground Police Station," he said.

In addition, he said they have established free Internet access for beach users at Pinney's Beach and there are plans to invest, for the first time, in lifeguards who would be strategically positioned along the beach.

Brantley also stated that there are plans to invest in a beach-sweeping machine in 2017, to clean the beach in the early morning.

The Tourism Minister also spoke to upgrades at other tourist attractions on the island, among them the Waterfalls at Russell's Rest in Maddens and Maroon Hill in Gingerland.

"Russell's Rest in Maddens: that attraction, in the new year, we hope to have officially named and designated a national park in keeping with our sustainable tourism thrust. We want an orientation booth, visitors' facilities and scheduled maintenance of the trails with some signage and interpretation.

"Maroon Hill: we are upgrading the trail there. We are doing some signage and we are creating some viewing platforms and benches," he said.

Brantley added that in terms of signage, there will be a comprehensive, island-wide upgrade of all tourist, village and attraction signs.

He also noted that Charlestown would become a free Wi-Fi zone for tourists by the end of 2016, because of a partnership with Internet service provider Digicel.

## Wilders denies he would 'clear out' the judiciary

THE HAGUE--Party for Freedom VV leader Geert Wilders has denied that comments he made in the *Telegraaf* newspaper after his conviction for inciting discrimination against Moroccans meant that he planned to fire judges if he becomes Prime Minister.

Wilders told the paper that he planned a major clean up if he leads the country after the March 15, 2017, general election in the Netherlands.

"People want to control their own country again," he said. "I am going to fight for all these people, have a good clean up in the Netherlands after the election, as Prime Minister," Wilders said.

However, in an interview with the same paper on Tuesday, Wilders said

he did not mean that he planned to sack judges. "That is not what I said and not what I meant," the *Telegraaf* quoted Wilders as saying. "But I do think that judges should not be appointed for life. We [the PVV- Ed.] have suggested judging their performance after five or 10 years, but this politician is not going to fire judges."

After the verdict was announced Wilders described the judges as untrustworthy, unprofessional and politically motivated. "They are on the wrong side of history, all three," the PVV leader said. He also described the court as a "sham" and said the Netherlands is an "ill" country.

Wilders told Tuesday's *Telegraaf* what was meant by a major "clear out,"

namely "that we once again become bosses in our own country and put an end to the tsunami of foreigners who don't belong here. If a people become a movement, anything is possible. The Dutch people are beginning to move and want a clean out, in the broadest sense of the word," he said.

Experts agree it is not likely that Wilders would become Prime Minister after the 2017 vote, even if the PVV emerges as the largest party. Most political parties have said they would not work with the PVV, and Prime Minister Mark Rutte said again, on Friday, the VVD would not form an alliance with the anti-immigration party unless Wilders withdraws his "fewer Moroccans" statement.

## Wastewater analysis reveals high use of drugs in two Dutch cities

EINDHOVEN--An analysis of wastewater from sixty European cities has found a sharp increase in cocaine use in both Eindhoven and Utrecht in the Netherlands, but volumes are still well below leaders Antwerp, London and Zurich.

Eindhoven is far in the lead when it comes to weekly ecstasy use and Utrecht is in fourth place, the report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction found.

Experts say Eindhoven's dominance in the ecstasy rankings is most likely due to drugs manufacturers flushing residues into the drains. The south of the Netherlands is known as a centre for ecstasy manufacture.

Amsterdam, which led the cocaine rankings last year, does not feature in the new report because the Dutch capital's figures have not been fully analysed.

In March, the *NRC Handelsblad* newspaper reported that eight Dutch towns are overhauling their strategies to tackle drug abuse after using an analysis of wastewater to find out more about what drugs their residents are actually taking.

Water analysis institute KWR checked the wastewater in eight towns and villages in the province of Utrecht for cocaine, can-

nabis, MDMA, amphetamines and methamphetamine over the period of a week. Among the findings are that cocaine and can-

nabis are not as popular as in cities such as Amsterdam and Utrecht, but speed is the drug of choice.



Speaker Michael Perkins.

## Opposition files Motion of No Confidence in Speaker

ST. KITTS -- The parliamentary opposition in St. Kitts and Nevis announced late Tuesday afternoon that it has filed a No Confidence Motion against Speaker of the National Assembly Michael Perkins.

"I wish to inform the general public that Leader of the Opposition, the Right Honourable Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, representing the members of the Parliamentary Opposition, has filed a Motion of No Confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly," said St. Christopher 3 (West Basseterre) Representative Konris Maynard on the adjournment of Tuesday's sit-

ting, believed to be the last for this year.

Last week the opposition issued a statement on what it said was the unprecedented and unmerited ruling of Perkins on Thursday, December 8, which resulted in the suspension of Senator Nigel Carty during his presentation on The Appropriation Bill (2017) 2016.

The Opposition is of the view that over a period of time since Perkins was the Deputy Speaker, "we have had reason to question his impartiality and his specific targeting of Members of Parliament who sit on the opposition benches."



Senior Minister Vance Amory.

## Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs enjoys good relations with churches

ST. KITTS--The role of the Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs was highlighted as one of outreach and positive exchanges as it supports the growth of faith-based institutions.

"We relate to the churches and the church leaders and we try to embrace them in the whole social development of the country," Senior Minister and Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs Vance Amory said during the recent Budget session in the Federal Parliament.

Senior Minister Amory outlined that the church shares uplifting messages and helps those that are in need in society. He said they work to provide the "spiritual underpinning of society" and greater effort is being placed to have ecclesiastical officials more involved with public schools via the Ministry of Education, and to work in conjunction with private groups in community development initiatives.

"I am advised that the church can do a great deal as the moral compass of the country," Amory stated. This belief has helped to influence the level of support that government provides, which includes concessions on building materials, vehicles and worship accessories.

"You can't divorce the spiritual from the secular in that regard, but we have to have that balance and so when we speak with the representatives of the churches, we do so with mutual respect for what they have been mandated to do and mutual respect from them for what we, as government, have been mandated to do," he stated.

Senior Minister Amory pledged that government will continue to support the church, particularly as it works to uplift the nation's youth.

# No deal yet on Ukraine treaty

THE HAGUE--The Dutch cabinet has not yet reached agreement with other European Union (EU) member states on a separate declaration to take away Dutch objections to the EU treaty with Ukraine, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders told Parliament on Tuesday.

The Netherlands rejected the treaty with the former Soviet state in a referendum in April. Even though the vote is non-binding and turnout was just 32 per cent, Prime Minister Mark Rutte has promised to "do justice" to the outcome.

With time for a negotiated agreement running out, Rutte now hopes to use a similar construction as Ireland made after it rejected the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. The Lisbon Treaty became law on December 1, 2009 eight years after European leaders launched a process to make the EU "more democratic, more transparent and more efficient."

The declaration would state that the Ukraine treaty is not a stepping stone to Ukraine joining the EU and that Ukraine nationals do not have access to the European labour market. The declaration should also make it clear that there will be no military alliance with Ukraine and no financial support.

On Monday, opposition members asked Koenders and Rutte to publish the concept agreement so that Parliament can discuss it ahead of Thursday's crucial summit.

"There is no text which has been agreed on," Minister Koenders said in his briefing. "Nor can we say if the Dutch position will be realised, given that a number of member states consider it to be far-reaching."

International news agencies said agreement has been reached on some of the key points. Rutte told the *Financial Times* he needed a legally binding declaration. "If we do not get this we will put a law to Parliament the next day, which will state that we will not ratify the association agreement," Rutte said.



Minister Henk Kamp. (Dutch Government photo)

# New offshore wind farm project off Zeeland coast

ROTTERDAM--A second large offshore wind farm, off the coast of Zeeland province in the southwest of the Netherlands, will come in at a far lower cost to the Dutch government than originally thought, ANP news agency reported on Tuesday.

Only 300 million euros in subsidies will be required for the project, down from the five billion euros originally projected, Minister or Economic Affairs Henk Kamp said in Rotterdam.

A consortium of mainly Dutch companies headed by energy giant Shell and including offshore contractor Van Oord, energy provider Eneco and DGE a subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi industrial group have won the contract to build the wind farm.

The government's plans call for a total of five new offshore wind farms in Dutch coastal waters. Each will generate 700 megawatts of electricity. The five windfarms combined

will be capable of supplying power to five million households when completed in 2023.

Announcing the agreement Minister Kamp said it is only a question of time before wind energy will be able to compete with fossil fuels in price. "If developments go as planned no subsidy at all will be required to produce offshore wind energy within 7.5 years," he explained.

Environmental group Natuur en Milieu (Nature and Environment) said the

offshore could only fall, and termed the project an "enormous boost" for the Netherlands as front runner in wind energy. "For the first time, wind energy will be cheaper than power generated by coal," the organisation said.

The Zeeland offshore windfarm project is part of the government's goal to generate 4,500 megawatts of wind energy at sea by 2023. The government aims to have 16 per cent of its energy needs produced by sustainable means by that date.



State Secretary Klaas Dijkhoff.

# Nearly 23,000 foreigners told to leave Netherlands this year

THE HAGUE--This year some 22,880 foreign nationals have been ordered to leave the Netherlands, 47 per cent of whom have left "under their own steam," State Secretary of Security and Justice Klaas Dijkhoff told radio show Dit is de Dag (This is the Day).

The rest left the country under supervision, Dijkhoff said, adding that he could not prove that the thousands who were told to go have actually left the country. "But, it would not be logical to assume that they are all still here," Dijkhoff said.

The group includes failed asylum seekers, illegal immigrants and people who have lost the right to reside in the Netherlands.

Of the foreign nationals who the State Secretary said have left, 13 per cent came from Albania, six per cent from Iraq and five per cent were from Serbia and

Syria. At the moment, refugees who fail in their applications for asylum are evicted from refugee centres and expected to return home. Thousands have ended up living rough or in emergency accommodation run by churches and other charities.

Refugee organisation Vluchtelingenwerk estimates some 5,000 would-be refugees are put on the street every year.

Dijkhoff also said in the radio show he is looking into measures to put "very irritating" asylum seekers under house arrest on December 31, to stop them disturbing the New Year's celebrations. "These are people who have a criminal record or people who are known to the police as troublemakers," he said, adding that he is "sharpening his own instruments" to make this possible.

# 63,000 hens due to to bird flu outbreak

AMSTERDAM--Dutch authorities ordered the destruction of 63,000 broiler hens on Tuesday, after bird flu was identified at a poultry farm in the northern province of Friesland. This is the country's fourth outbreak so far this winter.

Bird flu has spread across Europe in recent weeks forcing some farmers to slaughter flocks or keep them indoors, with the threat taken particularly seriously in the Netherlands where high farm density could help the virus to propagate.

Authorities also imposed a ban on transporting all poultry materials, including eggs and straw, within a 10 kilometre radius of the affected farm. Authorities did not say which of several H5 bird flu strains had struck at the farm.

The world's second-largest agricultural exporter, the Netherlands has one of the world's biggest poultry sectors. Almost a quarter of a million birds have been destroyed in the Netherlands during this year's bird flu season.

Nearby France adopted "high-risk" measures against bird flu last week after an outbreak of the severe H5N8 virus.

**Happy 35<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs.**

Wishing you many more years together with love, health the guidance of the Lord.

Best wishes from Charlene, Mathijas and MelMarie Jacobs, Sjakira the entire friends and family circle.



# Sint Maarten Government Info Page



**WWW.SINTMAARTENGOV.ORG** 141216

**For JOB VACANCIES visit [www.sintmaartengov.org/employment](http://www.sintmaartengov.org/employment)**

**MINISTRY OF VROMI**  
**Department of Infrastructure Management**

The stoplights at the Prins Bernhard bridge intersection are awaiting repair. The motherboard was burnt due to sporadic power outages of N.V. GEBE. A mother board has been ordered and once received will be installed immediately. All motorists are advised to exercise caution when driving via this intersection.

The Ministry of VROMI would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.


**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**EXEMPTION OPENING HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON (DECEMBER 2016)**

The Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, hereby informs the general public, that as a means to promote economic activity throughout the upcoming Christmas Holiday season, an exemption is granted to allow all businesses on Dutch Sint Maarten to extend their business hours during the entire month of December as follows:

On working days (including Boxing Day, December 26, 2016), all businesses are allowed to be open until 10pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, the opening hours are extended until 10 pm as well.

Please take note that this exemption **does not** apply for the official public holidays Christmas Day (December 25, 2016) and New Year's Day (January 1, 2017), as it is mandatory to remain closed on these days, with exemption to the following businesses as is mentioned in article 3 of the Law on Shop Closure:

- Pharmacies, as far as it concerns the sale of medicine and medical products;
- Bars and restaurants;
- Hotel and guesthouses;
- Stores located in hotels and on airport and harbor premises;
- Funeral parlors;
- Gas stations and
- Bakeries selling pastries, milk and milk products



MINISTER OF TOURISM, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TRANSPORT & TELECOMMUNICATION

 **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE**  
SINT MAARTEN

The Immigration Naturalization Admittance & Residency Department will be closed to the general public on: Friday, December 16th 2016 in the afternoon. The office will be opened from 8:00am- 12:00 pm on the above mentioned date.

Tuesday, December 20th to January 3rd 2017 the office will closed to the general public and will resume with regular office hours to the public on: Wednesday, January 4th 2017.

All request/ inquires regarding Decision to allow entry, Transit or Visa can be made via email at [visa@sintmaartengov.org](mailto:visa@sintmaartengov.org).

For matters of urgency please call 542-4449


The Immigration and Border Protection services would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Director a.i  
R.J.J. Panneflek


**More Movement for Elderly Activity Schedule at Sint Maarten's Home by WYCCF**  
**December 2016**

**On schedule for December 17th, 2016 for residents 60+ years**  
**Location: Sint Maarten's Home Time: 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.**  
**Available every 2nd Saturday of the month @ Sint Maarten's Home**

Dec 2016							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b>	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		



**Department of Collective Prevention Services**  
Vineyard Office Park



**I&I - Fitness**  
Have heart for your heart

**Our next activity is on Saturday, December 30th, 2016 by I&I Fitness in Cole Bay behind the I-Store.**

## iSTEP SXM



Design a Logo

# Win An iPad!!!

Inspiring our Students with Technology in Education Project (iSTEP) is having a logo design competition!  
Competition is open to 5th & 6th graders of elementary schools and the 1st & 2nd formers of the secondary schools on Dutch St. Maarten.

*The winning school will receive an I.T. prize!*

More information: [istepsxm@gmail.com](mailto:istepsxm@gmail.com)  
Link: <http://tinyurl.com/jemv6t2>



**Ministry of Education,  
Culture, Youth & Sports**

# Rebuked! Archbishop says priest's death penalty view 'irresponsible'



From left: Archbishop Joseph Harris and Father Ian Taylor. Father Taylor's image courtesy Channel5 Belize.

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad--Roman Catholic Archbishop Joseph Harris has delivered a stinging rebuke of Father Ian Taylor, one of his priests who advocated this week for the imposition of the death penalty.

Harris declared that capital punishment was an offence against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person and it was highly irresponsible for anyone representing the Church to promote it.

Harris was responding to calls by certain sectors of

society to bring back hanging as a deterrent to serious crime.

Roman Catholic priest Father Ian Taylor called Saturday for the death penalty to be swiftly reinstated. Taylor said the country may never come to terms with last week's killing of bank employee Shannon Banfield.

He said the country was in a state and called for Banfield's killers to face the hangman as soon as possible.

But Harris, head of the Roman Catholic Church,

issued a release on Tuesday stating, "It is highly irresponsible, therefore, for any person who speaks in the name of the Church, or is perceived to be speaking in the name of the Church, to urge the imposition of the death penalty on any criminal or class of criminal. More and more it is seen as an offence against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person, which contradicts God's plan for man and society and His merciful justice, and impedes the penalty from fulfilling any just objective."

Harris said the Antilles Episcopal Conference had put out a statement two months ago opposing the use of capital punishment and asking the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados to change their laws on this issue.

Harris said the Catholic magisterium in recent years had become increasingly vocal in opposing the practice of capital punishment. ~ Trinidad Express ~



Vendors plying their trade on Regent Street.

# City businesses foresee bleak Christmas season

GEORGETOWN, Guyana--Business owners each year look forward to the Christmas season, as that is the time when business booms, but this is definitely not the case this Christmas.

A walk around the capital city with several stops at business establishments revealed the reality, which was evident on the faces of many proprietors.

This publication (*Guyana Times*) took to the busy Regent Street and from all indications it seemed as though a blue Christmas is

looming.

Many business owners refused to elaborate but were quick to highlight "business is slow, nothing ain't happening!"

One Indian national businessman, who has been in Guyana for over four years, said that he has seen a decline every year but that this year is the worst thus far.

He noted that most persons are window shopping instead of buying anything: "I don't know if it is because there is so much competition now with the Chinese being able to sell way cheaper but business is dead, dead!"

A floral vendor relayed that if not for her regular customers, she would not be getting any sales: "Right now business is not the way it would usually be; what we are accustomed to, we are not getting it. It is pretty slow because the people

are not shopping much."

A single mother who has been plying her trade on Regent Street for a number of years is hopeful that business picks up by next week as she is hoping to provide a joyous Christmas for her children.

When asked what they think might be the reason for the drop in sales, most business owners highlighted that it is getting harder to live and make a living in Guyana because of the bad economic circumstances.

They voiced their dissatisfaction with the present situation, expressing fear for the coming years if things do not change.

However, some business owners are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping that as it gets closer to Christmas, sales will pick up and can at least shine some light on their Christmas trees. (*Guyana Times*) ~ iNews Guyana ~

# Jamaica tourism to reach higher heights in new year



Edmund Bartlett.

KINGSTON, Jamaica--The year 2017 is set to open on a grand high for Jamaica's booming tourism sector.

Five new hotels are set to break ground in January, Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett has revealed.

While keeping the details close to his chest, he disclosed that the new properties would be set up on Jamaica's north coast, from St. Ann to Montego Bay.

Bartlett also hinted that discussions were already at an advanced stage for the construction of additional new properties.

"We have had not just enquires, but proposals for the purchase of a number of properties, and that, we

hope, will be concluded also within the first quarter of next year so that construction can begin in those areas," Bartlett was quoted as saying in the *Jamaica Gleaner*.

The upbeat Tourism Minister said all this would drive Jamaica to meet substantial growth targets for the sector within the next five years.

Jamaica is aiming to boost its room stock to 50,000 in five years and to grow its market to five million visitors annually in five years.

This year has been a lucrative year for Jamaican tourism. According to Bartlett, more than 1.8 million tourists

visited Jamaica. He disclosed that visitor arrivals had increased by 5.2 per cent between January and October this year, compared with the same period in 2015, while stopover arrivals also rose by 2.4 per cent over the same period last year.

"We are seeing robust performance out of the United States, Jamaica's primary source market, which saw a 4.6 per cent increase," Bartlett said, adding that the European market grew by 5.3 per cent.

Hotels also significantly improved their operations. Over 2,000 rooms were added

by properties including Royalton Blue Water, Zoetry on Montego Bay, Gran Bahia Principe and Moon Palace.

The Tourism Minister is expecting this growth to continue in the coming months.

"The outlook for 2017 is also quite positive, as more than 1,000 new rooms are expected to be added to our room stock," he said.

Bartlett said this included just over 300 from the former Wyndham Hotel, The Royalton Negril Resort and Spa, the Renfrew in Kingston and the Hideaway at Royalton. ~ Caribbean360 ~

# Female entrepreneurs win PitchIT Caribbean Challenge

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad--Five female entrepreneurs each won US \$5,000 in seed funding, a place in a PitchIT Caribbean accelerator programme and participation in an international pitching competition, after winning the PitchIT Caribbean Challenge held in Trinidad this month.

Kelly-Ann Bethel of SKED and Ayana St. Louis of D Carnival Scene, both

from Trinidad and Tobago; Jamaica's Monique Powell of QuickPlate and Danielle Tait of The Interview; and Nerissa Golden of IndeTours in Montserrat, emerged the best among 25 Caribbean entrepreneurs who took part in the challenge which brought together Caribbean App developers and Tech Startups for a two-day boot camp training session and two-

day Pitch competition.

PitchIT Caribbean is a programme aimed at enhancing the mobile app development ecosystem across the Caribbean Community Caricom. It is designed to accelerate mobile app entrepreneurs through the start-up life cycle, which runs from ideation to pitch, from pitch to market and from market to maturity. ~ Caribbean360 ~



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Global Elite Security, your leading Security Company is seeking:

**SECURITY OFFICERS**

To carry out their daily operation in St. Maarten.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Males between the ages of 23-45 years
- Dependable, reliable and flexible
- Physically fit and willing to work shifts
- Must be fluent in English & written to follow instructions
- Clean police record a must
- Valid working papers required

If you are interested in a challenging position and you meet our requirements, please drop off your application at our office in Cay Hill, Welgelegen Road #7 (hospital Road) or call: 721 543 1396 or send an email to: [globalelitesxm@gmail.com](mailto:globalelitesxm@gmail.com) and drop off a copy of your resume to the Labour Department.

[www.gesecurityinc.com](http://www.gesecurityinc.com)

## Suriname lauded for region's first Holocaust monument

PARAMARIBO--A monument for Jewish Holocaust victims that was erected quietly in Suriname last March has put the country in an international spotlight this week. Israeli newspaper *The Times of Israel* reported on Tuesday that the Holocaust memorial that stands in Paramaribo is the first monument to local Holocaust victims in the Caribbean region.

It comes more than 70 years after the end of World War II and stands under a shady tree in the backyard of the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Paramaribo. Over 100 Jewish names were engraved on stone. "Even though they were in the northern part of South America, the impact was profound – 105 Jews got caught in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Ja-

cob Steinberg, a Canadian gold-mining professional who was instrumental in raising the funds for the monument. Suriname lost almost a fifth of its Jewish population during the Holocaust, he said.

Suriname was then still under Dutch rule, with many of its young people traveling to the Netherlands to further their education. Thus many Surinamese Jews died in the Nazi death machine.

In addition to the names of the 105 Holocaust victims, the monument includes their dates of birth and death, and the names were engraved on stone. "The Dutch farmers came to make money and go back to Holland. The Jews stayed. They came to live in a free society." They established communities with names like Jewish Savanna and Jerusalem on the river, remnants of which – 17th century grave-stones and synagogues in the jungle – can still be

forgotten Surinamese Holocaust victims to the Yad Vashem museum in Israel.

Steinberg, who has done extensive research on the history of the Jewish community in Suriname, says that "the first autonomous Jewish state, you can say, was in Suriname in the 17th century." Portuguese and Spanish Jews started out as planters and they also owned slaves, Steinberg said. "The Jews were the first settlers," he said. "The Dutch farmers came to make money and go back to Holland. The Jews stayed. They came to live in a free society."

They established communities with names like Jewish Savanna and Jerusalem on the river, remnants of which – 17th century grave-stones and synagogues in the jungle – can still be



Jacob Steinberg posing next to the Holocaust memorial.

seen. While their population numbered about 2,000 in the 18th century, Jews began to leave Suriname after the collapse of the plantation economy. More left after Suriname became independent from Holland in 1975, leaving only a few hundred and the Neve Shalom synagogue, located next to a mosque as a testament to Suriname's unity. A representative from the

mosque attended the dedication of the Holocaust monument. "[Here – Ed.] Jews are not threatened by anyone," Steinberg said.

Suriname was not the only Caribbean nation where the Jewish community was affected by the Holocaust. At least 52 more Jews from the Caribbean and its extended basin were murdered in the Nazi concentration camps, including 23 people from

Mexico, 19 from Cuba, 15 from Curaçao, two from the Dominican Republic and one person each from Trinidad and Tobago; St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands; Guatemala; El Salvador; Nicaragua and Guadeloupe, according to a new book by Jamaican author Diana Cooper-Clark, who is also a professor at York University in Canada.

## Bahamas' 1st woman Opposition Leader picks rival party DNA Leader for Senate

NASSAU, The Bahamas--Radical changes are emerging on the political scene in the Bahamas as the country's first female Opposition Leader Loretta Butler-Turner gets down to business after her official appointment by Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling.

Butler-Turner, who declared that democracy was about "cooperation in the pursuit of a common good" at her swearing-in ceremony on Sunday, has formed an alliance with the minority opposition Democratic National Alliance (DNA).

In an unprecedented move, she named political rival Branville McCartney, the DNA Leader, as the Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate.

Butler-Turner has insisted that she and the other six Free National Movement (FNM) Members of Parliament (MPs) who last week wrote a letter to Dame Marguerite indicating they no longer had confidence in then Opposition Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis, have not joined the DNA.

She said the two sides are working together for the joint purpose of getting the ruling Progressive Labour Party (PLP) out of power.

"We will be collaborating on every piece of legislation as we move forward to ensure that we are able to keep the PLP's foot to the fire and to make sure that they are transparent and ac-



Opposition Leader Loretta Butler-Turner (right) announced an alliance with the Democratic National Alliance, whose leader Branville McCartney she named as Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate.

countable to the Bahamian people," Butler-Turner said, as she described McCartney as a man of experience.

For his part, McCartney signalled he was ready to work with the FNM to build a better Bahamas, but neither he nor Butler-Turner offered any further details on how the new alliance would work.

The new Opposition Leader defended the surprise move by the seven FNM parliamentarians to withdraw their support for Minnis.

She said they had not violated the principles of parliamentary democracy but had acted in the country's best interest.

"We have acted in accord with our consciences, as have others before us in this country who have also acted similarly. We stand on a firm and tested democratic foun-

ation," she said.

The MPs – whom Minnis described as the revel seven – are now facing disciplinary action from the FNM.

Dr. Minnis, who now has the backing of only two MPs, revealed that the disciplinary process has started, and has insisted that the seven "should do the honourable thing and resign."

He was adamant that he would not be sidetracked by the new coalition, declaring that the FNM would move forward with confidence and win the next general election.

"The FNM remains a vibrant alternative and will be the alternative, no doubt. We will be the next government," he said.

Minnis also fended off calls for him to step down, saying he had been "unanimously elected by the people." ~ *Caribbean360* ~



Person locked in a jail cell.

## Granger says no Christmas pardons for Guyanese prisoners this Yuletide Season

GEORGETOWN, Guyana--President David Granger delivered some disappointing news for prisoners hoping to get the Christmas gift of a presidential pardon this year. There will be none this time around.

And it's not because he has lost the spirit of forgiveness. Granger says it's simply because no one has qualified for the privilege.

Granger, speaking on his weekly interview programme Public Interest, said the nominations which had come before his office were unacceptable.

He declared that convicted drug traffickers and murderers would not receive his grace.

"I didn't pardon anyone at Independence because many

of the persons who would normally be eligible for pardon were in fact convicted for trafficking in cocaine, not possession of a few grams of marijuana, and I am not going to tolerate trafficking," the President said. "I am not going to tolerate murder. I am not going to pardon anybody who has got blood on their hands."

Since taking office last May, the former army general has defied strong criticism, issuing presidential pardons to some 100 people.

A large number of these included non-violent first-time offenders.

President Granger expressed the view then that youth belonged in colleges and universities and not in jail. He raised concern that

if someone was incarcerated for a minor offence for a long period, he or she could become a habitual criminal. He argued that early release and pardon could help the accused to turn around their lives and make a meaningful contribution to society.

Granger made it clear Monday that he would maintain the tradition of presidential pardons for convicts who meet his criteria, but hardened criminals would have to pay the full price for their acts.

"I don't pardon people for the sake of pardoning people. I pardon people to give them a second chance in life," he insisted. ~ *Caribbean360* ~

# Senate fight looms over Trump pick for top American diplomat

WASHINGTON--President-elect Donald Trump named the head of Exxon Mobil Corp, Rex Tillerson, as his choice for U.S. secretary of state on Tuesday and won backing from some Republican foreign policy figures ahead of a possible Senate fight over the oilman's ties to Russia.

The Exxon chief executive potentially faces difficulties getting confirmed in the Republican-controlled Senate. Some lawmakers worry about his links to Moscow and opposition to U.S. sanctions on Russia, which awarded him a friendship medal in 2013.

But several Republican establishment figures, including former Secretaries of State James Baker and Condoleezza Rice, and former Defense Secretary Robert Gates vouched for Tillerson, 64, who has spent more than 40 years at the oil company.

Rice and Gates, who have worked for Exxon as consultants, both issued statements of support on Tuesday. Their backing could be crucial for Tillerson receiving the approval he needs in the Senate, where Republicans will have a slim majority when Trump takes office on Jan 20. "The fact that Condi Rice,

James Baker and Bob Gates are recommending Tillerson carries considerable weight," said Republican Senator Jeff Flake, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

By choosing Tillerson, Trump adds another person to his Cabinet and circle of advisers who may favour a soft line toward Moscow, which is under U.S. sanctions for its 2014 annexation of Crimea and at the center of allegations that it launched cyber attacks to disrupt the U.S. presidential election.

Republican foreign policy hawks in the Senate like John McCain and Lindsey Graham are likely to give Tillerson a rough time at a confirmation hearing in early January. "It's very well known that he has a very close relationship with (Russian President) Vladimir Putin," said McCain, the Republican party's 2008 nominee for president.

Republicans will have a majority of just 52-48 in the Senate, and only a few defections from their ranks would block Tillerson if every Democrat also opposed him.

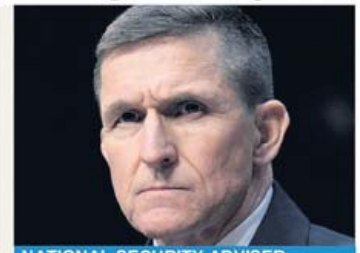
Trump, on a victory tour of states that backed him in the November election, told supporters in West Allis, Wisconsin, that Tillerson "will be a fierce advocate for American interests around the world." He called him "a strong man, a tough man." Trump upset U.S. allies during his campaign by calling for a better relationship with Russia and questioning the usefulness of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the U.S.-led military bloc created after World War Two to counter the Soviet Union.

## Donald Trump's disconcerting cabinet picks



SECRETARY OF STATE

**Rex Tillerson, 64:** ExxonMobil chairman and CEO has extensive dealings with Russia. First met President *Vladimir Putin* in 1999, was awarded Kremlin's *Order of Friendship* in 2013. Under Tillerson, Exxon has amassed more drilling rights in Russia than in U.S.\*



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

**Michael Flynn, 57:** Retired Army Lt. Gen. served in Afghanistan and Iraq and as director of *Defence Intelligence Agency* from 2012 to 2014, before being sacked. Used social media during election campaign to spread fake news and conspiracy theories



COMMERCE SECRETARY

**Wilbur Ross, 79:** Former investment banker is harsh critic of way that U.S. negotiates international deals. Believes, as world's "biggest customer," U.S. should renegotiate trade pacts. Blames *NAFTA* agreement with Canada and Mexico for causing massive U.S. job losses



LABOUR SECRETARY

**Andrew Puzder, 66:** Fast-food CEO of *CKE Restaurants Inc.*, which runs 3,700 burger restaurants. Vociferous critic of government regulation and opponent of minimum wage, has argued that higher minimum wages would stifle growth in restaurant industry



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**Scott Pruitt, 48:** Oklahoma Attorney General is an ardent opponent of President Barack Obama's *Clean Power Plan* - bid to cut greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. Is currently suing EPA to block its carbon rules

\*U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission †North American Free Trade Agreement Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

# US will halt some arms sales to Saudi Arabia over Yemen

WASHINGTON--The United States has decided to limit military support to Saudi Arabia's campaign in Yemen because of concerns over widespread civilian casualties and will halt a planned arms sale to the kingdom, U.S. officials told Reuters.

The United States will also revamp future training of the kingdom's air force to focus on improving Saudi targeting practices, a persistent source of concern for Washington.

The decision reflects deep frustration within President Barack Obama's government over Saudi Arabia's practices in Yemen's 20-month-old war, which has killed more than 10,000 people and sparked humanitarian crises, including chronic food shortages, in the poorest country in the Middle East.

It could also further strain ties between Washington and Riyadh in the remaining days of Obama's administration and put the question of Saudi-U.S. relations squarely before the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20.

Still, the decision was not the cut-off in support that Saudi Arabia's biggest critics had hoped for and much of the U.S. military relationship will remain intact. For example, the United States will keep refueling Saudi-led coalition aircraft involved in the campaign, and it is not cutting off all arms sales to the kingdom. And, in a nod to Saudi Arabia's security concerns, Washington will share more intelligence on the Saudi border with Yemen.

The kingdom has been subject to cross-border attacks

by the Iran-allied Houthi movement. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen's civil war in March 2015 and has launched thousands of air strikes against the Houthis.

Rights groups say Saudi-led coalition attacks on clinics, schools, markets and factories may amount to war crimes. Saudi Arabia has either denied the attacks or cited the presence of fighters in the targeted areas and has said it has tried to reduce civilian casualties.

"I think it's a signal but too weak of a signal," said William Hartung of the U.S.-based Center for International Policy, responding to the U.S. decision. "As long as they're going to refueling aircraft which is central to the bombing campaign, it's hard to see that they're using all the leverage they have," said Hartung, who authored a report earlier this year on U.S. arms offers to Saudi Arabia during Obama's tenure.

An Obama administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said "systemic, endemic" problems in Saudi Arabia's targeting drove the U.S. decision to halt a future weapons sale involving precision-guided munitions. "We've decided not to move forward with some foreign military sales cases for air-dropped munitions, PGMs (precision-guided munitions)," the official said.

"That's obviously a direct reflection of the concerns that we have about Saudi strikes that have resulted in civilian casualties," the official said. A second official confirmed the decision to suspend the sale of certain weaponry.

# Drinking, drug use down among US teens

LOS ANGELES--The use of alcohol, marijuana, prescription medications and illicit substances declined among U.S. teens again in 2016, continuing a long-term trend, according to a study released on Tuesday by the National Institutes of Health.

But the research found that high school seniors were still using cannabis at nearly the same levels as in 2015, with 22.5 percent saying that had smoked or ingested the drug at least once within the past month and 6 percent reporting daily use.

"Clearly our public health

prevention efforts, as well as policy changes to reduce availability, are working to reduce teen drug use, especially among eighth graders," Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, said in a statement accompanying the study results.

"However, when 6 percent of high school seniors are using marijuana daily, and new synthetics are continually flooding the illegal marketplace, we cannot be complacent," Volkow said.

The annual survey, part of a series called Monitoring the Future which has tracked drug, alcohol and

tobacco use among teens since 1975, also found that during 2016 there was a higher use of pot among 12th graders in states with medical marijuana laws. According to the study, marijuana and e-cigarettes are more popular among teens than regular tobacco, with a large drop in the use of tobacco cigarettes among 8th, 10th and 12th graders. In 2016, 1.8 percent of high school seniors smoked half a pack or more of tobacco cigarettes per day, compared with 10.7 percent in 1991.

The use of alcohol has seen similar declines, ac-

ording to the research, with 37.3 percent of 12th graders reporting this year that they had been drunk at least once, down from a peak of 53.2 percent in 2001.

The analysis found that the use of illicit drugs other than marijuana by teens was at its lowest levels since tracking began. The study, which is sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, surveyed 45,473 students from 372 public and private schools.

would meet soon regarding its transition.

Trump was also poised to add another figure with close ties to the oil industry to his Cabinet. A source close to the transition said Trump had chosen former Texas Governor Rick Perry, whose state is a leading oil producer, as his nominee for energy secretary, with an announcement expected soon.

# le GRAND marche

Where Shopping is a Pleasure!

# Christmas Promotions

# Shop & Win!

**IT'S TIME TO GIVE YOUR BEST**

BUY ANY 2 BOTTLES OF THE FOLLOWING BRANDS

**SCRATCH & WIN \$1,000 DOLLARS DINNER FOR 2**

JOHANNESBURG GOLD RESERVE

GUARANTEED WINNER IN THIS STORE!

**BUY ANY 2 ITEMS FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN A PLAYSTATION 4**

**Ponche KUBA**

BUY 4 BOTTLES OF PONCHE KUBA AND YOU COULD

**SCRATCH & WIN 500 NAF!**

GUARANTEED WINNER IN THIS STORE!

**Pampers**

BUY 4 PAMPERS BOX FROM THE DISPLAY AND GET A DIRECT \$500 FREE

**WIN 1 YEAR SUPPLY OF PAMPERS**

**WIN 500 NAF** 1st PRIZE

**WIN 350 NAF** 2nd PRIZE

**WIN 150 NAF** 3rd PRIZE

**Buy any 4 cans from the display and enter to WIN a Shopping Voucher**

**WIN SAMSUNG GALAXY TABLET**

Buy 3 Frisian Flag Milk from the Display and enter to win A 7 inch Samsung Galaxy Tablet

1st PRIZE: BURNER STOVE

2nd PRIZE: MICROWAVE

3rd PRIZE: GIFT BASKET

**BUY ANY 2 RONZONI OR MAHATMA ITEMS FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN**

1st PRIZE: TV

2nd PRIZE: TV

3rd PRIZE: TV

**BUY ANY 2 ITEMS FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN A 50 INCH SMART-TV**

**Win It!**

**P&G SPA VOUCHER** 1st PRIZE

**HERBAL ESSENCES FOR NATURAL SKIN CARE FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN** 2nd PRIZE

Buy 1 bottle of Mount Gay Eclipse, Silver or Black Barrel for a chance to

**SCRATCH & WIN \$500!**

**MOUNT GAY** Est. 1703

**WIN SAMSUNG GALAXY TABLET**

Buy 3 Frisian Flag Milk from the Display and enter to win A 7 inch Samsung Galaxy Tablet

**Get a Chance to Win 32" LED TV**

Buy any 2 of DelMonte Products from the Display & ENTER TO WIN !!!

**BUY ANY ITEM FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN**

1st PRIZE: A WASHER

2nd PRIZE: A PORTABLE SPEAKER

**BUY ANY GILLETTE / VENUS RAZOR FROM THE DISPLAY AND ENTER TO WIN**

1st PRIZE: TV

2nd PRIZE: TV

3rd PRIZE: TV

4th PRIZE: TV

**FRESH PREMIUM BALSAM TREES AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Chocolates**

**CHOOSE FROM A WIDE VARIETY**

**Turkey/Ham**

**BEST PRICES ON THE ISLAND**

**Gift Vouchers**

**CONTACT (+1721) 587-6830 FOR ALL ENQUIRIES**

**Gift Basket**

**CONTACT MS. FRIDA AT (+1721) 542-4400**

\*CUSTOMIZE ACCORDING TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS



# Syrian rebels prepare to withdraw from Aleppo

ALEPPO, Syria--Syrian rebels prepared to withdraw from Aleppo on Wednesday after a ceasefire agreement that ended years of fighting in the city and gave President Bashar al-Assad his biggest victory yet after more than five years of war.

The agreement was a result of talks between Russia, Assad's main ally, and Turkey, a leading backer of the rebels, a Turkish government official said. The guns fell silent late on Tuesday in Aleppo. A Reuters reporter in the city said no blasts had been heard after days of near constant bombardment.

It was the culmination of two weeks of rapid advances by the Syrian army and its allies that drove insurgents back into an ever-smaller pocket of the city under intense air strikes and artillery fire. By taking full control of Aleppo, Assad has proved the power of his military coalition, aided by Russia's air force and an array of Shi'ite militias backed by Iran.

"Over the last hour we have received information that the military activities in east Aleppo has stopped, it has stopped," said Russia's U.N. envoy Vitaly Churkin late on Tuesday at a heated meeting of the U.N. Security Council. "The Syrian government has established control over east Aleppo."

Rebels groups have been supported by the United States, Turkey and Gulf monarchies, but the insurgent ranks also include jihadist militants who are not backed by Western countries. However, Assad is far from winning Syria's complex civil war even after reclaiming the major prize of Aleppo. The rebels fight on from strongholds elsewhere in the country, including in the northwest and in areas south of Damascus.

Assad has said victory in Aleppo would be a turning point in the war but that his army had to march on other rebel enclaves. Islamic State group, while on the back foot in northern

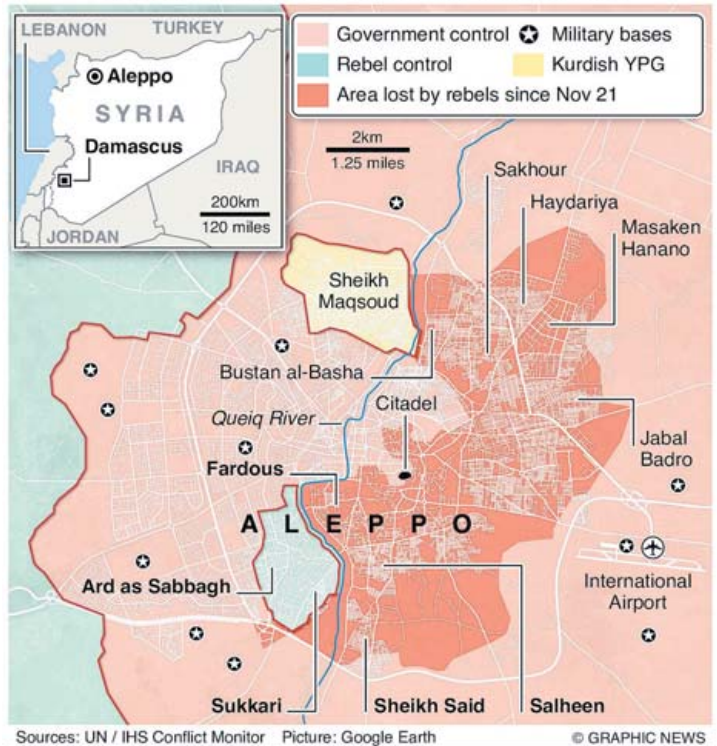
Syrian territories, suffering from the loss of many of its leaders through air strikes and under attack in Iraq, this week managed to retake the desert city of Palmyra from Syria's army.

Russia regards the fall of Aleppo as a major victory against terrorists, as it and Assad characterise all the rebel groups, both Islamist and nationalist, fighting to oust him. But at the United Nations, the United States said the violence in the city, besieged and bombarded for months, represented "modern evil".

The once-flourishing economic centre with its renowned ancient sites has been pulverised during the war which has killed hundreds of thousands of people, created the world's worst refugee crisis and allowed for the rise of Islamic State. As the battle for Aleppo unfolded, global concern has risen over the plight of the 250,000 civilians who were thought to remain in its rebel-held eastern sector before the sudden army

## Reports of civilians executed in Aleppo

The United Nations says it has reliable evidence that at least 82 civilians were summarily executed in Aleppo's Fardous and Salheen districts by Syrian government forces and Iran-backed Shia militias



advance began at the end of November.

Tens of thousands of them fled to parts of the city

held by the government or by a Kurdish militia, and tens of thousands more retreated further into the

rebel enclave as it rapidly shrank under the army's lightning advance.

# Syria's civil war to mar Obama legacy

WASHINGTON--The fall of the last rebel-held areas in the Syrian city of Aleppo could seal the fate of the "Obama Doctrine," deepening the world's worst humanitarian crisis in decades and staining U.S. President Barack Obama's legacy.

With the U.S.-aligned rebels facing defeat by government forces backed by Russia and Iran, Obama's light-footprint approach to the Syrian conflict will suffer a serious blow weeks before he hands power to President-elect Donald Trump on Jan. 20. The rebel loss would underscore the failure of U.S. efforts to stem the carnage from Syria's nearly six-year-old civil war, leading some critics to predict that Obama's record will be tarnished just as President Bill Clinton's was by his refusal to intervene to halt the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

"There is no doubt he will be hammered in historical terms," said Aaron David Miller, a former Middle East adviser to Republican and Democratic administrations. "The question will



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stand atop a damaged tank near Umayyad mosque, in the government-controlled area of Aleppo, during a media tour, Syria on Tuesday.

be why he didn't do more." While the war is expected to grind on, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's victory in Aleppo would provide fresh fodder for Trump, who has argued the insurgency has collapsed, and the United States should revamp its fight against Islamic State by joining up with Russia, and by extension, Assad.

Syria has been one of the main testing grounds for Obama's doctrine of relying on local proxy fighters instead of large-scale U.S. military deployments, reflecting his reluctance to be drawn back into unpopular ground conflicts like the Iraq war.

The approach has faltered in Syria, where on Tuesday the Syrian army said

it could declare full control over eastern Aleppo by Wednesday. A deal was struck to allow the remaining rebel fighters to evacuate their last enclave there, Russian U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said.

"Leading from behind leaves a vacuum that is filled by the Bashar Assads and Vladimir Putins of the world," said Senate Armed

Services Committee Chairman John McCain, referring to how an Obama aide described his strategy. "I think history will judge that these are unintended results that are going to cause great challenges to the United States for years to come."

Obama has been criticized for refusing to provide sufficient arms and other support to moderate rebel groups to compel Assad and his Russian and Iranian backers to negotiate an end to his authoritarian rule. "Obama has pursued a policy of calculated dithering in Syria, just agonizing over the choices until they no longer existed," said Emile Hokayem, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank.

The Democratic president has defended his policy as "judicious." His spokesman, Josh Earnest, said it was Obama's "overriding responsibility" to protect the interests and safety of the American people first.

A Republican, Trump has vowed a dramatic shift

from Obama's cautious strategy toward a more aggressive approach - although exactly how he will proceed remains unclear. He will inherit an increasingly complicated conflict in Syria, and many analysts fear his lack of foreign policy experience could lead to dangerous miscalculations.

If Trump follows through after Aleppo's fall on his pledge to cooperate with Russia, Assad's military patron, there is a risk that frustrated moderate rebels could gravitate toward militant factions that pose a potential threat to Western interests. As Assad himself turns from the wreckage of Aleppo to assert his authority over a fractured Syria, he will have to contend with the loss of swaths of his country for the time being and tough pockets of resistance still to crush.

The war has taken some 400,000 lives and made more than 11 million people homeless, driving many into neighboring countries or on a long perilous trek to Europe.

# Iran to work on nuclear-powered vessels after US "violation" of deal

BEIRUT/VIENNA--Iran ordered its scientists on Tuesday to start developing systems for nuclear-powered marine vessels in response to what it calls a U.S. violation of its landmark 2015 atomic deal with world powers.

Nuclear experts said that President Hassan Rouhani's move, if carried out, would probably require Iran to enrich uranium to a fissile purity above the maximum level set in the nuclear deal to allay fears of Tehran building an atomic bomb.

Rouhani's announcement marked Tehran's first concrete reaction to a decision by the U.S. Congress last month to extend some sanctions on Tehran that would also make it easier to reimpose others lifted under the nuclear pact. The White House said it was aware of Iran's order and noted that Rouhani had said any such work on the vessels would be done within the framework of Iran's commitments.

"The announcement from the Iranians today does not run counter to the international agreement to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told a news briefing.

U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said the United States was

confident the International Atomic Energy Agency, which inspects Iran's nuclear sites, would be able to analyze Iran's compliance with the deal. "There's a lot we don't know about it, what it means," Kirby said, referring to Rouhani's announcement, at a news briefing on Tuesday. A marine nuclear propulsion program is a "massive undertaking for any nation" and would likely take decades to realize, he added.

Rouhani described the technology as a "nuclear propeller to be used in marine transportation," but did not say whether that meant just ships or possibly also submarines. Iran said in 2012 that it was working on its first nuclear-powered sub.

Rouhani's words could stoke tensions with Washington, already heightened by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's vow to scrap the deal, under which Iran curbed its nuclear fuel production activities in exchange for relief from economic sanctions. Rouhani also ordered planning for production of fuel for nuclear-powered marine vessels "in line with the development of a peaceful nuclear programme of Iran."

But under the nuclear settlement Iran reached with the United States, France, Germany, Britain,

Russia and China, it is not allowed to enrich uranium above a 3.67 percent purity for 15 years, a level unlikely to be enough to run such vessels. "On the basis of international experience, were Iran to go ahead with such a (nuclear propulsion) project, it would have to increase its enrichment level," said Mark Hibbs, nuclear expert and senior fellow at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "That's the point, because Iran would be looking for a non-weapons rationale to provocatively increase its enrichment level in the case that the deal with the powers comes unstuck."

He pointed out that countries with more advanced navies and nuclear programmes have been working on propulsion reactors for decades. Such technology might need uranium enriched to around 20 percent purity.

A Russian Foreign Ministry source told RIA news agency that a careful reading of Rouhani's order showed he was talking only about developing power-supply units for nuclear-powered marine vessels, but not higher-enriched uranium itself, so "strictly speaking" this would not contravene the nuclear deal. But the source acknowledged that such vessels typically ran on higher-enriched uranium prohibited by the accord.



Ahmad Ishchi, who is reported to have been beaten and detained by Afghanistan's vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum last month, displays an injury on his leg during an interview at his home in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday.

# Afghanistan First Vice President denies abusing rival, West urges investigation

KABUL--Afghanistan's First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum denied on Tuesday accusations that he had beaten and abducted a political rival and threatened him with sexual violence, in a case that sparked Western calls for a full and fair investigation.

Dostum, a former warring faction commander with a fearsome reputation and a lingering power base in northern Afghanistan, was witnessed by hundreds of people, according to The New York Times, beating and then ordering his men to detain Ahmad Ishchi at a public sporting event in late November. Ishchi was once a member of the same political faction as Dostum but later fell out with him.

Reuters has been unable to

confirm independently the accusations made by Ishchi against Dostum. "He (Ishchi) was detained by Afghan security forces for allegations of funding the opposition and having a hand in repeated security issues," a spokesperson for Dostum said in a statement, denying any physical or sexual abuse had taken place.

"For some time there has been a destructive movement by some unknown circles against the First Vice President," it added. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office promised a thorough investigation of Ishchi's accusations. While imprisoned by Dostum's men, Ishchi told Reuters he was repeatedly beaten, including by rifles, and threatened with sexual violence. After being held by men loyal

to Dostum for five days, Ishchi said he remained for another 10 days with security forces who provided medical aid.

Pledging an investigation into Ishchi's claims, Afghan presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansori said: "For the Afghan government nobody is above the law. Rule of law and accountability begins in the government itself and we are committed to it."

Western embassies in Kabul expressed concern over the accusations. "The unlawful detention and reported mistreatment of Mr Ishchi by the First Vice President raises serious concerns," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. "We would welcome the Afghan government's move to swiftly investigate these allegations."

# Envoy warns separatist forces may slow Bosnia's EU progress

SARAJEVO--Separatists pushing to split up Bosnia along ethnic lines could endanger its bid to join the European Union and force international powers to intervene, the peace envoy for Bosnia has told Reuters.

The EU accepted Bosnia's application to join three months ago and last week took the first step in what is certain to be a long accession process. But recently Serb and Croat nationalists have intensified calls to divide the country along ethnic lines.


"We have on one side integration into Europe and at the same time disintegration at home," said international High Representative Valentin Inzko, whose office has helped maintain

unity in Bosnia since the 1992-95 war.

"It can happen that the country will slow down its process even towards Brussels because disintegration could be stronger than integration," he said. "We would intervene if red lines are crossed, if they (the Bosnian Serbs) announce a referendum on independence - this would be such a red line."

Under the Dayton peace agreement which ended the war, Bosnia was split into two autonomous regions - the Serb-dominated Serb Republic and the Federation dominated by Muslim Bosniaks and Croats - linked via a weak central government.

Continued on page 32



**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(ELECTRICITY)

N.V. GEBE hereby informs the general public that the electricity supply to:


**WELLINGTON / WELL ROAD**

( Budget Marina, Fishermans Wharf, Electec, Electric Center, part of Wellington and Well Roads, West Union Street and surrounding areas)

will be interrupted on **Wednesday, December 14th, 2016, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.** The outage will allow us to carry out the necessary maintenance to our Distribution system.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by this interruption and we thank you for your understanding as we continue to improve our service to the community of St. Maarten.

Sincerely,  
N.V. GEBE



**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(ELECTRICITY)

N.V. GEBE hereby informs the general public that the electricity supply to:

**POINT BLANCHE**

(Trush Road, Swallow Drive and surrounding areas)

will be interrupted on **Thursday, December 15th, 2016, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.** The outage will allow us to carry out the necessary maintenance to our Distribution system.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by this interruption and we thank you for your understanding as we continue to improve our service to the community of St. Maarten.

Sincerely,  
N.V. GEBE

# Zika virus can keep growing in infant brains even after birth

WASHINGTON--U.S. researchers have found evidence of the Zika virus replicating in fetal brains for up to seven months after the mother became infected with the virus, and they showed the virus can persist even after birth, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The findings confirm earlier observations from case studies suggesting that the mosquito-borne Zika virus can grow in fetal brains and women's placentas.

"Our findings show that Zika virus can continue to replicate in infants' brains even after birth, and that

the virus can persist in placentas for months - much longer than we expected," Julu Bhatnagar, lead of the molecular pathology team at CDC's Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch and the study's lead author, said in a statement.

The findings help explain how the virus causes devastating birth defects and pregnancy losses even if a woman had only a minor illness. Last

month, the World Health Organization declared that Zika no longer constitutes an international emergency, but stressed the need for a long-term effort to address the virus, which has been linked to thousands of birth defects and neurological complications.

For the study, CDC researchers tested tissues from 52 patients with suspected Zika virus infection,

including brain tissues from eight infants who had microcephaly and later died. They also tested placental tissues from 44 women - 22 of whom delivered apparently healthy babies and 22 whose pregnancies ended in miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or who delivered babies with microcephaly. Zika has been shown to cause microcephaly, a rare birth defect in which infants are born with undersized heads and brains, which can cause life-long disability.

The researchers found Zika genetic material in fetal brain tissue and placentas more than seven months after the mothers contracted the virus. In one case, they also found evidence of the virus growing in an infant with microcephaly who died two

months after birth.

Of the eight infants who had microcephaly and later died, all tested positive for Zika. The mothers of all eight of these infants contracted Zika during the first trimester of pregnancy, adding to prior evidence that Zika is most dangerous early in pregnancy. "We don't know how long the virus can persist, but its persistence could have implications for babies born with microcephaly and for apparently healthy infants whose mothers had Zika during their pregnancies," said Bhatnagar, whose findings were published in CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases journal.

There are no treatments or vaccines for Zika, which previously had been seen causing only mild disease.

## VACANCY

### Jetbudget is willing to hire Pilots

They must possess:  
2500 hours TT  
1500 hours TT

and a valid CE500 and CE510 type rating on it or they must possess a valid B1/B3 with at least 1500 TT with a Valid C208B on it.

Please apply by email to:  
[Chiefpilot@jetbudget.com](mailto:Chiefpilot@jetbudget.com) or  
[Chassel@jetbudget.com](mailto:Chassel@jetbudget.com)  
and a copy to the Labour Department.

## OPROEPING

Bij exploit d.d. 1 december 2016, afschrift waarvan is gelaten aan de Off. van Justitie op St. Maarten, heb ik, Solange M. APON, deurwaarder op St. Maarten, alhier. Opgeroepen: Abdoul Vakhb Sarani Barro, zonder bekende woon-of verblijfplaats, om op maandag 10 april 2017 te 09:00 uur voormiddags ter terechtzitting van het Gerecht in Eerste Aanleg op St. Maarten, ten Raadhuis aan de Front Street # 58 te Philipsburg alhier te verschijnen, voor de behandeling van vorenbedoelde zaak Marilyn Margaret Thomas. (E 57/16)

De deurwaarder S.M. APON

## VACANCY

The New Testament Baptist Church  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Dutch Caribbean  
A full-gospel Baptist Church invites applications  
for a:

### FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR

#### Requirements:

- . Skilled in the areas of Preaching, Teaching, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Administration, and Leadership,
- . Qualities as described in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1
- . College Degree
- . Between 35 - 50 years
- . Married
- . Dutch Nationality or valid Working and Residency Papers
- . 5 plus years experience as Senior pastor.

If you are interested, please write to:  
The Foundation Board of The New Testament Baptist Church  
Attn: Deacon Noel A. Jack  
P. O. Box 939.  
Philipsburg, St. Maarten  
Cell: 1-721-526-3325 or  
Email: [newtestbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:newtestbaptist@gmail.com)  
Please submit application before January 6, 2017 to receive an application package with information. Please submit a copy of application and resume to The Department of Labor Affairs, Philipsburg, St. Maarten.

## VACANCY

### Sai Geeta N.V.

has a vacancy for the following position:

### STORE MANAGER

- **Leadership skills:** You must keep your employees motivated, resolve conflicts and make hard decisions for your employees. A successful Store Manager is a good leader.
- **Time management:** You will be working with employees, customers and management. You might have to create schedules, order supplies and write reports. Time management is essential to make sure everything gets done.
- **Math and budgeting:** Store Managers are expected to make and maintain a budget in almost every field. You need to be confident in using math skills to make sure you know your company's money is spent.
- **Analytical skills:** you will be in charge of hiring new employees, and being a good judge of character will help ensure that you hire the right person to maintain an effective and motivated team. You also need analytical skills to be able to solve problems that may come up during a typical work day.

Please send you application, resume to the abovementioned company, and send a copy to the Labour Department. E-mail: [sxmtechnology@gmail.com](mailto:sxmtechnology@gmail.com).

## AANKONDIGING

Bij exploit d.d. 9 december 2016, afschrift waarvan is gelaten aan de Officier van Justitie op St. Maarten, heb ik, Solange M. APON, deurwaarder op St. Maarten, alhier, ten verzoeken van Mario Lincoln Martina, gevestigd op St. Maarten, gedomicilieerd ten kantore van dhr. Edwin Maduro, kantoorhoudende op St. Maarten, aan Dianne Marcia Lindie, wonende in de Verenigde Staten van Amerika, BETEKEND, een beschikking waarbij de echtscheiding tussen partijen op 7 november 2016, in het openbaar is uitgesproken, geschiedende deze betekening en publicatie ten effecte rechtens en opdat de geëxploiteerde van het een of ander niet onkundig blijft (E60/16).

De deurwaarder S.M. APON

## JOB VACANCY

Iron Shore Management N.V.  
is looking for a:

### Chamber Maid

- Sweeping and mopping of the floors in suites.
- Polishing of furniture, brass, copper and other items that need detailing in suites.
- Detailed cleaning of bath and bedrooms in suites.
- Changing of linen and drapes in suites.
- Replenishing of amenities in suites.
- Must have minimum 3 years working experience.

Applications must be submitted prior to January 11th, 2017.

Interested and qualified applicants can send or bring their resume to the offices located at:  
Emerald Merit Road #10, Oyster Bay.  
Please forward a copy of your application to the Labour Office.  
For more info please  
Call: 1 (721) 543-6040 / Fax: 543-6695 or  
E-mail: [mbrown@obbr.com](mailto:mbrown@obbr.com).

# Global strategy needed to end child slavery by 2025

NEW DELHI--Countries can end child slavery within the next decade if there is a focused global strategy that includes modernising laws, getting companies to clean their supply chains and breaking trafficking networks, said economist Jeffrey Sachs.

While 193 countries have committed to ending child labour and slavery by 2025 under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sachs said there now needs to be a targeted plan of action in place in order to meet the deadline.

"We have agreed globally to end child labour and to end trafficking and all forms of modern slavery, but we have to do it now," Sachs, a top adviser to the U.N. on the SDGs, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview over the weekend. "We need very practical steps to break the criminal trafficking rings, to support poor communities by giving kids a real chance through proper healthcare and schools, and to ensure legislation and its enforcement is strengthened."

There are 168 million child labourers globally, with more than half involved in hazardous work in sectors such as agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing and services, says the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO estimates 5.5 million children are enslaved - born into servitude, trafficked for sex work, or trapped in debt bondage or forced labour. Almost 60 percent work in the farming sector - toiling in fields where they are often exposed to pesticides

and risk injury from sharp tools and heavy equipment.

Sachs, who runs a research institute at Columbia University and advises many governments on poverty issues, said there had to be a holistic approach, looking at the root causes of child labour, such as impoverishment, conflicts or disasters.

"Children are growing up in very vulnerable conditions, usually poverty is part of the story. The fathers may not be at home, the mothers may not be literate and the children may not have enough to eat, and there is little work," said Sachs. "So people find themselves in difficult circumstances and do things that are unimaginable - selling their children or listening to the false promises of a trafficker."

Governments, development experts and civil society groups should come together at a global level and chalk out model legislative framework making child labour, slavery and trafficking illegal, which could be adopted at a national level. Law enforcement agencies,

anti-trafficking activists, lawyers and the judiciary could share information and solutions on how to break criminal gangs that buy and sell children.

Getting children into school is imperative to stopping child labour, said Sachs, adding there is a need to create a global fund to improve the quality of education in the world's poorest nations. The American economist said big companies - whether they manufacture coffee, chocolate or clothes - should also be brought on board and held accountable to ensure there are no children working in their value chains.

"Vulnerability is the number one factor why this is happening, and from a moral point of view, nobody in this world should be so vulnerable," said Sachs, who spoke on the sidelines of a child rights conference in New Delhi. "It's a disgrace of our civilisation that we not only allow this vulnerability, but it is happening to hundreds of millions of people in a world of such wealth."



Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde (R) stands with her lawyers before the start of her trial about a state payout in 2008 to a French businessman, at the courts in Paris, France, on Monday.

## Lagarde grilled over "punch in the gut" payout to French tycoon

PARIS--International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde fought negligence charges in a Paris court on Tuesday, arguing she had approved a 2008 French state payout of 400 million euro (\$425 million) to a business tycoon only to end a costly legal battle.

Aggressive grilling from the top judge put Lagarde on the defensive during the second day of the trial into her approval as finance minister of the rare out-of-court settlement with Bernard Tapie in a dispute over the sale of a stake in a company.

Lagarde, 60, faces up to a year in jail and a fine of 15,000 euros (\$16,000) if convicted. A maximum sentence could raise questions about her ability to keep leading the Washington-based IMF, where her French predecessor Dominique Strauss Kahn resigned in 2011 over a sex assault scandal.

The head judge, Martine Ract Madoux, quizzed Lagarde about why she did not ask more questions about 45 million euros in damages included in the settlement

when the original approval to seek arbitration did not cover damages.

"It's a punch in the gut, doesn't that make you react?" Madoux said on the second day of the trial, comparing the order to pay Tapie damages with the 30,000-50,000 euros that parents usually receive in compensation for the death of a child.

Lagarde said she had been "shocked, surprised, stunned" by the arbitration ruling, but also said the case was far from the only matter to deal with as the global financial crisis erupted.

The case dates back to a time when Tapie sued the state for compensation after selling his stake in sports company Adidas to then state-owned Credit Lyonnais in 1993. He accused the bank of defrauding him after it resold its stake for a higher price.

Lagarde told the court that she had approached the case not with political calculations in mind but had aimed to draw a line under a dispute which in 2005 alone had cost taxpayers 32 million

euros in lawyers' fees.

"I was never negligent, I went even further than what can be usually expected of a minister," she said. "I went beyond what a more political and less technical minister would have done."

The case is being heard before a special court for trying cabinet ministers, which has only heard five cases since it was created in 1993 and never sent anyone to jail. The court comprises a panel of 15 judges, including 12 lawmakers from both the lower and upper houses of parliament.

Lagarde said there were political motivations behind the case, noting that opposition lawmakers had brought it against her. However, she denied that her decisions had been politically motivated even though Tapie was a friend and supporter of then-conservative president Nicolas Sarkozy. "I never received any instructions, neither one way nor the other," she said.

The trial is scheduled to run until Dec. 20.

### RELOCATION NOTICE

#### OASIS MEDICAL CENTER N.V.

**OLD ADDRESS:**

Hyena Road #20,  
Cay Hill (520-4345)

**NEW ADDRESS:**

Union Road #155  
Country Club  
Port de Plaisance Resort  
Cole Bay

### VACANCY


Blue Sky Restaurant is looking for an: **Indian Cook**

Specialized in Indian cuisine/food.  
At least 3 years of experience.  
Able to handle large orders.

Please apply by email to: anil-nair62@yahoo.com and send a copy of resume to the Labour Department.

**Steward Dev. Corp. N.V. & A.A. Steward Estates**  
For Sale in Oyster Pond Land and luxury town houses. A gated community.  
Tel: 586 6018 or 526 7880  
Email: leonardpriest@gmail.com  
Visit: www.stewarddevcorp.com

TOWNHOUSES FOR SALE LAND

A.A. STEWARD ESTATES  A.A. STEWARD ESTATES

WWW.STEWARDDEVCORP.COM  
Leonardpriest@gmail.com  
TEL: 1-721-586-6018

### VACANCY

JOHN MASTER PEST CONTROL N.V.  
TEL: 523-3437  
has a vacancy for a:

#### SPRAY TECHNICIAN

- 3 years experience.
- High school diploma.

Please send application & resume to the Labour Department.

# Fillon attacked over 'fuzzy' healthcare plan

PARIS--Francois Fillon, tipped to win France's presidential election next year, sought on Tuesday to dispel fears over his plans to reform public healthcare as opponents accused him of backtracking and sowing confusion.

Fillon, 62, has raised concern even within his centre-right Les Republicains party with an election manifesto that foresees limiting public health insurance to serious or long-term illnesses, with everything else covered privately. Signs that he favours a radical redrawing of a system largely unchanged since 1945, but which French citizens do not want to lose, have handed the opposition a stick to beat him with and suddenly made healthcare a hot-button election issue.

Though the system operates with debts of 110 billion euros (\$117 billion), an opinion poll showed that 90 percent of people are opposed to cutting spending on public healthcare. Aiming to counter criticism from political rivals and head off possible revolt in his own party on the way to the election next April and May, Fillon denied on Tuesday that he harboured plans to privatise parts of the health system.

"Instead of looking at the facts, my detractors suspect me of wanting to 'privatise' health insurance and cut down on spending there. This is quite clearly not true," he wrote in an article in *Le Figaro*, flagship newspaper of the centre-right.

The general public insurance now in force would continue to cover treatment as it does now, and people would actually



Francois Fillon (C), member of Les Republicains political party and 2017 presidential candidate of the French centre-right, walks in the street during a visit in Chantenay-Villedieu, western France, December 1, 2016.

be better reimbursed for glasses and dental care, he said.

Fillon's camp denied suggestions he was back-ped-

dling. But critics accused him of failing to clarify where he stood on his written manifesto pledge that only serious illnesses would be covered by the state.

"He is trying purely and simply to confuse the French," said Marisol Touraine, health minister in the Socialist government.

A spokesman for Fillon did little to help when

asked whether common colds would qualify for state insurance cover or not. "It depends on what kind of cold," the spokesman replied to France Inter public radio.

"He (Fillon) wants to calibrate reimbursement according to the level of sneezing," Touraine responded in a sarcastic tweet.

The far-right National

Front (FN), whose leader Marine Le Pen is tipped in polls to face Fillon in the run-off vote next May, also weighed in. "It's either deliberately fuzzy and he is hiding his real plan, which is to privatise the social security system ... or he is genuinely back-peddalling and that means we could, if Fillon is elected, be condemned to five years of immobility," said Florian Philippot, a leading FN official.

Fillon, a former prime minister, won his party's nomination with a programme in which he proposes slashing public spending by 100 billion euros, cutting half a million public sector jobs and extending the working week to 39 hours from 35. But his healthcare plans have clearly worried people in his own party who fear he might squander the big lead he apparently holds over Le Pen.

Bernard Accoyer, secretary general of Les Republicains, has called for clarification, and Fillon was due to meet leading lights in the party later on Tuesday.

## VACANCY

### Project Development Manager

The Project Development Manager is responsible for identifying and developing projects that will contribute to the social & community development on St. Maarten within the objectives and the related areas of the St. Maarten Development Fund Foundation ("SMDFF").

We are seeking an individual with a keen understanding of the social make up of the community, with understanding of the area of Senior & Elderly Care and excellent social connections within St. Maarten. An ability to think out of the box in developing and implementing projects is required.

#### Scope of duties:

- Establishing the needs in conjunction with stakeholders, Public and private sector ) within the community of St. Maarten in the area of Elderly Care;
- Developing project terms of references based on studies completed on the needs of the Elderly on St. Maarten;
- Conducting inventory of established NGO organizations active in Elderly care and conducting interviews with such organizations;
- Conducting sessions with stakeholders within the identified theme area seeking consensus with an aim towards the development of a common vision and tangible project interventions;
- Development and implementation of project plans for the execution of projects, therein included the related project financing plans;
- Ability to develop budgets and project writing is required.

We are seeking a passionate individual with a drive for implementation and helping others succeed.

The successful candidate must possess a Bachelor's or University degree with experience in project development & management. We offer a salary commensurate with experience.

Kindly submit expressions of interests with resume prior to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to:

#### St. Maarten Development Fund

Attention: Keith D. Franca, Managing Director  
 e-mail: [k.franca@sxmdevelopmentfund.org](mailto:k.franca@sxmdevelopmentfund.org)  
 Office address: Yogesh Commercial Complex 1-H,  
 Cul De Sac, Sint Maarten.  
 Tel: 1-721-54-37711 or 1-721-54-37751.

## VACANCY



The Foundation for Academic and Vocational Education (FAVE) has a vacancy for the school year 2016-2017 for:

### Substitute Teacher

**Full time Substitute Teacher Physical Education Teacher (two months) starting January 4th, 2017**

Please send a written application in English or Dutch including a complete CV, copies of diplomas, and transcript. Applicant must be in possession of a teaching degree.

References should be addressed to the Chairperson of the Foundation for Academic and Vocational Education (FAVE).

Requirements: Masters/Bachelor's degree with specialization in a subject area.

1. Teacher Certificate in Education
2. At least two years teaching experience
3. Computer skills

Applicants only in possession of a Bachelor's degree will be considered only for PSVE section or lower levels of Academic section.

Application to be sent to: Chairperson  
 Board of FAVE  
 P.O. Box 299  
 Philipsburg  
 St. Maarten - Dutch Caribbean

Application can also be dropped off at the St. Maarten Academy at Cuppers Drive # 2 and leave it with security.

# Venezuela releases four jailed opponents of President Maduro

CARACAS--Venezuela freed on Tuesday another four opponents of President Nicolas Maduro, but activists demanded the immediate liberation of more than 100 others they say are also unjustly imprisoned.

"I'm so happy after living through these storms," one of the four, bank messenger Gilberto Sojo, told Reuters ecstatically after his release overnight, surrounded by friends and family.

Sojo and the other three - engineer Vladimir Araque, retired general Romer Mena and lawyer Leopoldo D'Alta - were arrested in 2014 and 2015 on various accusations of fomenting violence and plotting against the socialist government. All deny the charges. They were among the lesser-known

Maduro opponents jailed since he won an election to replace Hugo Chavez in 2013.

The ruling Socialist Party says its opponents, encouraged by the United States, want to seize power via a coup and denies the existence of political prisoners in Venezuela. But critics say Maduro has turned the South American OPEC nation into a dictatorship, far surpassing his predecessor Chavez in political repression.

Resuming a more militant stance against Maduro after the collapse of Vatican-mediated talks over the last two months, the opposition-controlled National Assembly restarted a symbolic political trial of the president on Tuesday. In response to that and further escalating Venezuela's conflict of powers, the government-leaning

Supreme Court later issued a ruling saying the legislature remained in "contempt" of the law and all its measures were thus null.

The court also named three new members to the three-person electoral commission, despite the opposition's insistence that the Assembly should be allowed to exercise its constitutional right to make the appointments. Critics say the election board is biased to Maduro.

Jesús Torrealba, head of the opposition coalition, said happiness at Tuesday's release of the prisoners was mixed with anger over the continued jailing others. "All the political prisoners are innocent; they all deserve freedom," he said.

The subject of prisoners, as well as the assembly's right to name new



Gilberto Sojo (C), an elected deputy from the Venezuelan coalition of opposition parties (MUD), shows a placard that reads "My only crime was to be friends with Leopoldo Lopez and member of Popular Will" after he was sworn in at the National Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela on Tuesday.

election board members, had been high on the list of the dialogue between government and opposition that began at the end of October but stalled last week.

The release of the four

prisoners on Tuesday followed half a dozen other releases in goodwill gestures after talks began. Sojo, 51, an activist in a poor community of Caracas for hardline Popular Will party, was

accused of plotting to bomb a Caracas court to free Popular Will leader Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuela's best-known prisoner, according to supporters. They said he was framed.

# Islamic State made weapons in Mosul up to military standards, report says

ERBIL, Iraq--Islamic State militants have been producing weapons on a scale and sophistication which matches national military forces and have standardised production across their self-styled caliphate, an arms monitoring group said on Wednesday.

Conflict Armament Research (CAR) said the jihadist group had a "robust supply chain" of raw materials from Turkey, and the technical precision of its work meant that it could not be described as "improvised" weapons production.

"Although production facilities employ a range of non-standard materials and chemical explosive precursors, the degree of organisation, quality control, and inventory management indicates a complex, centrally controlled industrial production system," it said in a report following visits last month to six facilities once operated by Islamic State in eastern Mosul.

Iraq's military launched a sweeping operation on Oct. 17 to retake the northern city, the jihadists' last ma-

yor stronghold in the country, more than two years after government forces dropped their weapons and fled. Elite army troops have retaken a quarter of the city in a gruelling U.S.-backed campaign, but their advance has been slow and punishing. Soldiers are constrained by street-by-street fighting and a built-up urban battlefield.

CAR, which identifies and tracks weapons and munitions in conflicts, said the facilities it visited were part of a system producing weapons according to precise guidelines issued by a central authority. Production included a monitoring system with regular, detailed reports on production rates and quality that helped ensure standardisation - usually to the tenth of a millimetre - across the jihadists' once sprawling territory in Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

"Mortar rounds manufactured in one part of IS forces' territory are calibrated to fit mortar tubes produced in facilities located elsewhere," the report said.

CAR investigators estimated that Islamic State had produced tens of thousands of rockets and mortar rounds in the months leading up to the Mosul offensive. Standardisation required consistency in the supply of source materials, the report said, achieved through a major acquisition network in neighbouring Turkey and a supply chain extending from that country, through Syria, to Mosul.

In addition to technical advantages of standardisation, CAR said Islamic State sought to mirror the functions of a national military force in a bid to "legitimise the group's capacity and coherence in the eyes of IS fighters."

The monitor also said documents it had seen in Mosul suggested Islamic State had provided its fighters with sophisticated instructions on making and planting improvised explosive devices as well as the operation of complex weapons systems, such as anti-tank guided missiles.



Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland

Justitiële Inrichting Caribisch Nederland (JICN) is looking for a

## Social Worker

temporarily: for the duration of 1 year

The JICN [Justitiële Inrichting Caribisch Nederland; Correctional Institution Caribbean Netherlands] is a Correctional Institution where all convicts of the BES islands can be placed. It currently has a cell capacity of 112 prison places. Mid-2017 the JICN will move to a new location.

As a social worker you will offer psychosocial assistance to individuals held in custody and thus you will define the individual counselling, crisis intervention and the intermediary and advice function.

The treatment is aimed at the de-escalation of aggressiveness and impulsiveness and at promoting desired behaviour, in a nurturing, stable and consistent environment. You will make a system-oriented contribution to the treatment by maintaining contact with family, the social network and the social assistance network of the individual held in custody.

You will offer material assistance to individuals held in custody and launch aftercare for individuals who were held in custody and are being released.

### Job requirements

- A completed HBO [higher vocational education] training;
- You have knowledge of psychosocial assistance, psychopathology, the forensic psychiatric area and addiction care;
- You have knowledge of local laws and regulations, the social map of the BES islands and the various cultures.

### Job salary scale 8/9

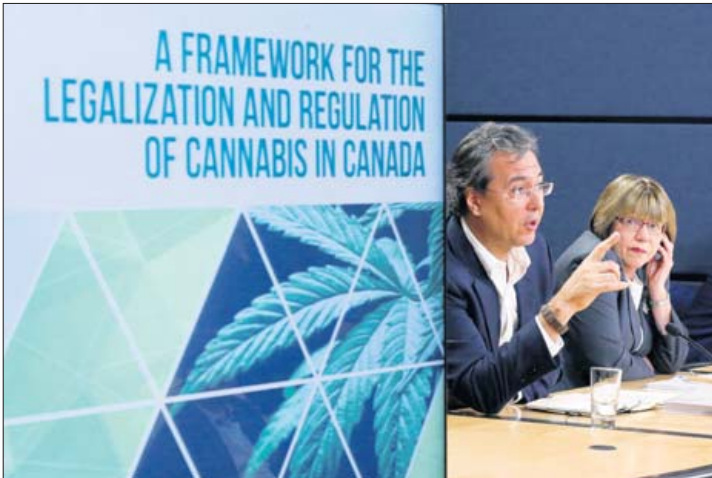
(\$ 2,094.00 to \$ 3,268.00)

Closing date 2 of January 2017

Vacancy number P&O2016\_12\_001

### Interested?

Read the full job-vacancy text on [www.rijksdienstcn.com](http://www.rijksdienstcn.com).



Anne McLellan, Chair of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, and Vice Chair Mark Ware take part in a news conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on Tuesday.

## BOSNIA'S EU PROGRESS

*Continued from page 27.*

Bosnian Serb nationalist leader Milorad Dodik has already said the EU accession process will depend on meeting Serb political goals. He has threatened the secession of the Bosnian Serb region and favours closer ties with Russia.

Bosnian Croat leaders have revived the notion of their wartime para-state Herceg-Bosna, and proposed the division of the country into three or more federal units based on majority populations.

The high representative

has wide-ranging powers to act against violations of the Dayton agreement, which is designed to preserve Bosnia as a single state with Sarajevo as its undivided capital. Asked about the possibility of a military intervention in the case of secession, Inzko said he would rather stick to peaceful solutions such as international pressure.

Previous high representatives, who include Carl Bildt and Paddy Ashdown, have taken action including firing a total of 180 officials. But some Western diplo-

matas have said that in the case of the Bosnian Serb secession, Inzko would be authorised to invite foreign troops to prevent an armed conflict. Some 200 soldiers of the EU peacekeeping mission EUFOR are still stationed in Bosnia.

The envoy's powers are vested in him by the Peace Implementation Council, a body consisting of representatives of major world governments and international institutions, including the United Nations and the European Union.

## Canada should require plain packaging on pot products

OTTAWA--The Canadian government should regulate the production of cannabis when it is legalized for recreational use and require plain packaging for such products, an official panel recommended on Tuesday, a potential setback to growers who hoped to build brands.

How cannabis is sold should be left up to the provinces and should include both retail storefronts and a mail order system, the report recommended. Authorities have been battling a surge in illegal dispensaries over the past year, particularly in Ontario and British Columbia.

With medical marijuana already legal in Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government made legalizing it for recreational use a part of its successful election campaign last year and will introduce legislation in the spring of 2017. Deloitte has estimated that annual sales could be as high as C\$8.7 billion (\$6.63 billion).

Canada is following in the footsteps of some U.S. states that have already legalized recreational use, including Colorado and Washington. While Tuesday's recommendations are not binding, the government said it will take them under consideration.

The recommendations were generally positive for the 36 companies that currently produce and sell medical marijuana, analysts said, with a lower-than-expected age limit of 18 for recreational users and the allowance of some forms of edibles, which have been popular in places such as Colorado. Still, the panel recommended that plain packaging be required, while restrictions to advertising should be put in place similar to those currently on tobacco products. "That's where the downside is for some of these licensed producers that had been hoping to advertise and really develop brands," said Jason Zandberg, an analyst at PI Financial.

Canopy Growth, which has a C\$1.2 billion (\$914.98 million) market capitalization on the main TSX exchange, was up 6.6 percent at C\$10.66, while producer and seller Aphria Inc was up 5.3 percent at C\$5.34. The panel recommended Canada maintain a separate system for medical marijuana.

The government should use licensing and production controls to foster a competitive recreational market that includes small producers, the panel recommended, suggesting the door was open for new producers to get into the bur-

geoning sector. Nonetheless, analysts did not expect the firms that want to transition to recreational will find themselves shut out.

"We're talking about a massive market," said Noel Atkinson, analyst at Clarus Securities. "There's lots of room for everyone to play."

## Thousands in North Korea at risk months after devastating floods

SEOUL--Thousands of survivors of floods that hit a remote corner of North Korea in August are in need of urgent aid as winter sets in, a senior international aid official said on Tuesday.

The floods, the worst in North Korea for 70 years, hit near its northeast borders with China and Russia and affected 600,000 people and left 70,000 homeless, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said.

"There is still much to do. Many people lost everything," IFRC president Tadateru Kono said in a news release following a 10-day visit to the isolated country. "They need basic relief supplies to get through the winter months and more investment is needed to restore health services, water supply and sanitation systems together with mass awareness campaigns to guard against the spread of communicable diseases."

Underdeveloped rural North Korea suffers from a lack of proper infrastructure and much of its mountainous terrain has been deforested to provide farmland, removing a natural flood barrier. The country also suffers from very cold winters, meaning people made homeless by the floods are particularly vulnerable.

In September, the IFRC made a \$15.5 million emergency appeal to help North Korea's Red Cross Society reach more people with aid, but only 25 percent of the target had been met, the IFRC said.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in September that, according to figures based on government data, 133 people were killed in the floods and 395 were missing.

## Romanian election winners play waiting game over PM

BUCHAREST--Romania's Social Democrat Party (PSD), the winners of Sunday's election, declined to meet the president on Wednesday for talks on a new government, saying they would wait and propose a prime minister candidate only after a new parliament is sworn in.

President Klaus Iohannis, a liberal, has invited political parties for talks on the new cabinet. But in the first sign of rift with PSD, he strongly suggested he would not accept its leader Liviu Dragnea as prime minister due to his criminal record.

It was unclear whether the PSD, which won the vote on promises of higher wages and pensions a year after they were ousted by protesters angry at corruption, would still nominate Dragnea or would put forward an alternative candidate.

Dragnea, 54, who rules his party with an iron grip, has remained in his post as party leader despite a con-

viction earlier this year for rigging a 2012 referendum for which he received a suspended sentence.

He is also on trial in a separate case accused of inciting a county councillor to abuse their power, which he has denied. Any fresh sentence of over three years would automatically send him to jail.

As PSD leader, he would be the obvious choice for prime minister, but his party has been tight-lipped so far on who they will propose. "We cannot honour the president's invitation for tomorrow ... while the old parliament is still in place," Dragnea told reporters on Tuesday. "We cannot come up with a proposal for prime minister until the new parliament is validated."

Analysts said the PSD were also waiting to see whether it has a majority of 50 percent plus one seat in parliament after seats are distributed using an algorithm, probably on



Leader of Romania's leftist Social Democrat Party (PSD), Liviu Dragnea, gestures during a press conference following the end of the parliamentary elections, in Bucharest, Romania, December 11, 2016.

Friday, which could further strengthen their negotiating position. The PSD won the parliamentary election with about 46 percent of votes, based on preliminary results.

Under the constitution, the president must hold consultations to form a government with the party with an outright majority, or in the absence of that, with all parties in the legislature.

Along with its long-time ally, ALDE, which secured about 6 percent of the vote, the PSD would have a comfortable majority.

"Iohannis plays a tough card. He wants to say Dragnea is out of the question for being nominated for premier," political commentator Cristian Patrascoiu said.

Under the law, the president would have the right

to reject Dragnea as prime minister, as the law says that convicted people cannot be members of the government. "Integrity criteria in appointing the prime minister remain in place," President Klaus Iohannis told reporters on Tuesday. "I unveiled these criteria before the start of the electoral campaign to avoid unnecessary discussions afterwards."

# Jammeh digs in, regional leaders fail to reach deal

BANJUL--Gambian President Yahya Jammeh's ruling party challenged his defeat in a Dec. 1 election at the Supreme Court on Tuesday as West African leaders failed to reach a deal that would see him accept the result and end a deepening political crisis.

Soldiers also seized the headquarters of the national elections commission and sealed it off just hours before the mediation delegation representing regional bloc ECOWAS touched down in the tiny riverside nation.

Jammeh, who has ruled Gambia since taking power in a 1994 coup and is accused of widespread rights abuses, initially conceded defeat to his main challenger, Adama Barrow. But in a dramatic about-face that drew international condemnation he then rejected the poll results last Friday.

The legal petition filed by the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction now raises the prospect that Barrow's narrow victory, which was poised to end years of Jammeh's autocratic rule, may be overturned. "The petition prays that it be determined that the said Adama Barrow was not duly elected or returned as president and that the said election was



Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh receives a delegation of West African leaders including President John Mahama of Ghana and Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari for a meeting on election crisis in Banjul, Gambia on Tuesday.

void," read the text of the document submitted to the court and seen by Reuters.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Nobel peace laureate, led the ECOWAS delegation that also included Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari, Sierra Leone's Ernest Bai Koroma and Ghana's John Mahama, who lost an election last week and conceded defeat. "It is not time for a deal. It is not something that can happen in one day. It is something that we have to work on," Johnson

Sirleaf said as the presidents prepared to leave Gambia.

Regional leaders will discuss the crisis at an ECOWAS summit in Nigeria on Saturday, she said, adding Jammeh had given her assurances that peace and stability would be preserved. But in an apparent sign that Jammeh was further entrenching his position, security forces seized control of the Independent Electoral Commission headquarters, which holds the original poll records.

"The military came to my

office and said I am not to touch anything and told me to leave," said commission chairman Alieu Momarr Njai. "I am worried for my safety."

Barrow, who received the unified backing of Gambia's

opposition in the election, has vowed to reverse Jammeh's most capricious decisions, including a recently announced withdrawal from the International Criminal Court. "I think everyone knows the issue here. There is a standoff between the government and our side," Barrow said after meeting the regional heads of state.

If negotiations fail, diplomats say, Gambia's neighbours might consider removing him by force. Marcel de Souza, head of the ECOWAS commission, told Radio France International on Monday that sending troops was "a conceivable solution".

Gambia's president officially has 60 days to hand over power, but his move to challenge the result at the Supreme Court - the legal channel for resolving poll disputes - could put the international community in a difficult position. Rights groups say Jammeh exerts strong influence over

the court, which has not held a session for a year and a half. Legal experts believe that at least four new judges would need to be hired to hear his petition.

With Gambian judges no longer willing to serve on the Supreme Court, foreign judges have increasingly been brought in to hear cases. The current chief justice is from Nigeria.

The role of Gambia's army will now be critical and the United States said on Monday some military officers had sided with Jammeh. Army chief General Ousman Badjie had previously called Barrow to pledge his allegiance, the latter's spokeswoman said. But Badjie's support for the president-elect appeared far less certain on Tuesday.

"I support the commander in chief, whoever it may be. I support the commander in chief Jammeh," Badjie told Reuters.



Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland (KPCN) is looking for a:

## Communication Consultant

Vacancy number: P&O2016\_11\_004

KPCN [the Dutch Caribbean Police Force] is a small and dynamic force whose work area is the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. KPCN contributes to the safety and the quality of life of people living, working or who are staying as a tourist on one of the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands.

For this position KPCN is looking for an experienced communication officer. A proactive consultant who is versed strategically and has comprehensive experience to define the (strategic) communication policy, the development of communication products and the implementation of the policy. The consultant will work closely with police management and chain partners, provide internal and external information, take care of press briefing and contribute to the promotion of the perception regarding the police in society.

### Job requirements

- An HBO (higher vocational education) level of working and thinking;
- Comprehensive and relevant work experience in the communication profession;
- Excellent communication skills in Papiamentu, Dutch, English and Spanish;
- Knowledge of the police organisation, the field of activity and the target groups;
- Comprehensive experience in proactively giving strategic communication advice.

### Job salary scale 9/10

(€ 2,403.00 to € 3,660.00 gross)

For the full job vacancy text, please visit: [www.politiectn.com](http://www.politiectn.com) and [www.rijksdienstcn.com](http://www.rijksdienstcn.com).

**OASIS 96.3 FM**  
The Softer Side of St. Maarten.  
**Oasis Oldies**  
Weekdays from 10AM to 1PM

Office: 543-2200 Fax: 543-2229  
On Air - 543-7963  
[www.oasis963.fm](http://www.oasis963.fm)



## Duterte says he may not be around till end of term

PHNOM PENH--Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday that he might not "be around" until the end of his term, and that, after winning the presidency at his age, he had found out late in the day that "I don't need it at my age".

The previous day he had told a gathering of business leaders in the Philippines that he suffered from back pains, migraines and Buerger's disease, a cause of blockages in the blood vessels, associated with smoking during his youth.

On Tuesday, Duterte told a cheering crowd of a few thousand expatriate Filipinos in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh: "I am old ... This is my last hurrah -- after this, 77 -- I am not sure if I will still be around by the end of my term."

Duterte, who will be 77 at the end of his six-year term in 2022, is the oldest person

to be elected president in the Philippines since the post-war period. He added that he had "found out very late" that he did not need the presidency at his age.

"It's not a question of having regrets, none at all, because I entered into it," he said, before adding: "I realize now - I do not need it at this time of my life. But I tell you, I take pleasure at the end of the day, that's the only consolation, I have a job, I am doing something right."

Duterte had told the business leaders on Monday that he had no fear of being removed from power or assassinated because of opposition to the rising death toll in his anti-drugs campaign. Since July 1, about 5,000 people have died in his crackdown, a key plank of his May election campaign. Police say 2,004 have been killed by officers in self-defence, with another



Philippine Air Force Lt. General Edgar Fallorina (R) escorts Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte before Duterte's departure for Cambodia, at the Ninoy Aquino International airport near Paranaque, Metro Manila, Philippines on Tuesday.

3,060 killings "under investigation".

"Oust me - good; assassinate me - better; I have this migraine every day," he said. "I have a lot of issues with my spine. What I have is really Buerger's disease. It's an acquired thing that you get from smoking, because of nicotine."

Doctors had advised surgery on his spine, he said, but his wife, a nurse who used to work in the United States, did not agree because "a lot of operations for the spine went wrong". He added: "If you guys see me always in a sad mood, I am actually pushing a nerve here to relieve the pain,"

and touched the right side of his face.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the health issues had not affected Duterte's work, dismissing the remarks as "Nothing serious". Duterte no longer smokes or drinks alcohol.

## Tearful governor of Jakarta denies insulting Koran in blasphemy trial

JAKARTA--A tearful governor of Jakarta denied on Tuesday he had intended to insult the Koran at the start of his blasphemy trial in the Indonesian capital, which is seen as a test of religious freedom in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation.

Around 100 Muslim protesters calling for the jailing of Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama chanted "God is great" outside the court, while supporters of the ethnic Chinese Christian sang the national anthem.

A cordon of police stood guard outside the court after Muslims, led by hardliners, took to the streets in December and November, to call for Purnama's arrest and to urge voters not to reelect him in February. The rallies, with over 150,000 participants each, were the biggest Jakarta has seen in nearly two decades.

Purnama told the court he had not intended any insult during a trip to islands off Jakarta when he commented on opponents use of the Koran in political campaigning. "It is clear what I said in the Thousand Islands was not intended to interpret the (Koran), let alone to insult Islam or the ulema," said Purnama, who was responding after



Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, popularly known as Ahok, sits on the defendant's chair at the start of his trial hearing at North Jakarta District Court in Jakarta, Indonesia on Tuesday.

the prosecutor read out the charges.

The governor said that his comments were targeted at rival politicians trying to get an unfair advantage in the election by saying that voters should not support a non-Muslim. Purnama, who is running for re-election against two Muslim candidates, described a loving relationship with his adoptive Muslim parents on the remote Bangka island. "I am very saddened that

I have been accused of insulting Islam because this accusation is the same as saying that I am insulting my adoptive parents and siblings."

During the hearing, Purnama sounded typically defiant at times. Quoting from his book "Hiding behind holy verses", he said many in the country's political elite were "cowards" who sought to divide Indonesians to gain power. Purnama, if found guilty,

faces up to five years in prison. Almost all blasphemy cases in recent years have ended in conviction.

Supporters of the governor, whose nickname is Ahok, were also outside the trial, which was aired live on television. "He is absolutely suited to be governor," said Charles Simanjuntak, 46, who praised the development of the city under Purnama and said he did not believe the governor had committed blas-

phemy.

Among the protesters opposed to the governor, one group held a placard reading "Jailing Ahok = fair government".

President Joko Widodo, seen as an ally of Purnama, has blamed "political actors" for fuelling the protests, but declined to elaborate. Widodo has faced widespread criticism for not doing enough to protect the country's religious minorities.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, but the country of 250 million also has sizeable Christian, Hindu and Buddhist communities and dozens of groups that adhere to traditional beliefs.

As governor, Purnama won kudos for shaking up the city's sleepy bureaucracy and for taking steps to ease Jakarta's notorious traffic. But his abrasive language and insistence on clearing the city's slums has alienated many voters.

Recent opinion polls showed Purnama, once the frontrunner in the race to lead Jakarta, has now slipped to second place, behind Agus Yudhoyono, the son of former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

## Putin visit to Japan won't end islands dispute

MOSCOW--Russian officials on Tuesday cautioned against expecting a breakthrough in its territorial dispute with Tokyo when President Vladimir Putin visits Japan this week, and proposed focusing instead on commercial deals.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pledged to resolve the dispute over who has sovereignty over a string of islands in the Pacific Ocean, and said he hoped for progress when he hosts Putin. But a deal to end the row, which has soured relations since the end of World War Two, carries political risks for Putin, who does not want to tarnish his image at home as a staunch defender of Russian sovereignty.

"The president has already said that our country is not only ready but interested in resolving this long-running problem," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told a briefing. "But we believe this is quite a long process, which requires scrupulous work aimed at building trust."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov echoed that sentiment, and cautioned against limiting the agenda between Moscow and Tokyo to just the islands dispute. Russia is hoping to land deals with Japanese companies as part of a pivot towards Asia in response to the decision by Western governments to impose sanctions over Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict.

"The potential in our relations is so rich, and the desire is so great to develop our relations to the level where they meet their potential, that we don't want to concentrate on one issue but on the wider substance ... of our relations," Peskov said.

The territorial feud has blocked Moscow and Tokyo from signing a peace treaty to formally end World War Two hostilities. The dispute stems from the Soviet Union's seizure at the end of the war of four islands off Hokkaido, known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kuriles.

Putin's visit is his first in years. Abe and Putin meet on Dec. 15-16, first in Abe's constituency in southwest Japan and then in Tokyo the next day.

# Silicon Valley VCs are growing wary of on-demand delivery

NEW YORK--Michael Moritz - chairman of Sequoia Capital and one of the most successful venture capitalists in history - says a simple vision led him to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in on-demand delivery startups.

"The movement of goods and services and people, by easier, more convenient means," he said in an interview. "That's a huge trend, enabled by smartphones."

Led by Sequoia and another blue-chip Silicon Valley firm - Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers - venture investors have poured at least \$9 billion into 125 on-demand delivery companies over the past decade, including \$2.5 billion this year, according to a Reuters analysis of publicly available data.

But that torrent of money has slowed to a relative trickle in the last half of this year, and many VCs have lost faith in a sector that once seemed like the obvious extension of the success of ride-services juggernauts such as Uber. The bulk of this year's investment - about \$1.9 billion - came in the first half of the year. Only \$50 million has been invested so far in the fourth quarter, the Reuters analysis found. Several prominent Silicon Valley venture capitalists said in interviews

that they now believe many delivery startups could fail, leaving investors with big losses.

"We looked at the entire industry and passed," said Ben Narasin, of Canvas Ventures. "There is more likely to be a big, private equity-style roll up than a venture-style outcome."

Reuters analyzed investment in on-demand delivery startups using publicly available data from the companies, their backers and third-party websites including Crunchbase, PitchBook and MatterMark. The analysis likely missed some investments because private firms and their investors do not always disclose funding details.

Delivery startups continue to grapple with fierce competition, thin margins and a host of operating challenges that have defied easy solutions or economies of scale, venture capitalists told Reuters. Widespread discounting and artificially low consumer prices have made on-demand delivery "a race to the bottom," said Kleiner Perkins partner Brook Porter in an interview.

That firm has not invested as heavily or broadly in the sector as Sequoia, but has backed U.S. startups DoorDash and Instacart and China-based Meican.



Michael Moritz of Sequoia Capital interviews U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner during an event at the Commonwealth Club in Palo Alto, California, U.S. October 18, 2010.

This year has seen high-profile failures, including U.S. meal delivery firm SpoonRocket, which went down in March, and PepperTap, an Indian grocery delivery service backed by Sequoia that folded in April. DoorDash, another of Moritz's investments, was able to close its latest venture funding round last March only by cutting the value of its share price by 16 percent, according to data from CB Insights.

The entry of Uber last year into the delivery business with UberEats, for food, and UberRush, for packages, promises to make life

more difficult for smaller start-ups. Established logistics companies including Amazon and DHL are also exploring local on-demand delivery.

Sequoia has backed at least 14 local delivery firms, among them four in the United States, five in China and four in India. Sequoia did not respond to Reuters requests for a response to rising VC skepticism of delivery firms.

Venky Ganesan, of Menlo Ventures, said the sector has no clear way to cut costs or boost revenue. "You can't raise prices on consumers, and you can't cut labor

costs," he said. "The core unit economics didn't make sense."

Dalton Caldwell, a partner at Y Combinator - the prestigious tech incubator that birthed a number of delivery startups - was also skeptical, though he thought companies with top-notch operational capabilities could succeed. Many delivery startups, he said, "make the assumption that once you get bigger, things will get easier, and that's wrong. There is driver churn, operations people that cost money, more support costs."

DoorDash, founded in 2013 by four students in a

Stanford University dorm room, has raised nearly \$200 million from top venture firms. Focusing on food and alcohol delivery, DoorDash has agreements with local restaurants, including franchised outlets, in dozens of cities in the U.S. and Canada. But DoorDash still has to figure out comparatively simple challenges - like how to economically deliver pizzas to the fifth floor of a college dorm with no easy street access.

"There is an opportunity to redefine local commerce in cities," says DoorDash co-founder Stanley Tang. "But we have to figure out, what are the operational challenges, and then how we can scale it up."

Deliv, a same-day small-package service aimed at online shoppers, uses a model similar to Uber's, with contractor drivers delivering packages. The company has venture investors and has also lured funds from United Parcel Service and some of the largest U.S. mall owners and operators, including Taubman Centers and Simon Property Group.

Founder and CEO Daphne Carmeli says that because Deliv does not maintain warehouses or a vehicle fleet, traditional couriers such as FedEx would be "challenged" to match the startup's low costs.



Apple AirPods are displayed during a media event in San Francisco, California, U.S. September 7, 2016.

## Apple AirPods headphones available for sale after delay

NEW YORK--Apple Inc said on Tuesday its wireless AirPods headphones were now available through its website, two months after the company delayed their launch for unexplained reasons.

Apple also said delivery

of AirPods would start next week along with sales at Apple Stores, Apple-authorized resellers and select carriers.

Apple unveiled the AirPods, which is priced at \$159, at the launch of the latest iPhone in September. The

launch delay was widely seen as a rare marketing slip-up by the company, coming as it did just before the start of the holiday shopping season.

Apple had said it needed more time to make the device ready before putting it on the market.

## IBM promises to hire Americans as tech executives set to meet Trump

NEW YORK--IBM Chief Executive Ginni Rometty pledged to hire and train workers in the United States as she and other technology executives prepared to meet on Wednesday with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

"We have thousands of open positions at any given moment, and we intend to hire about 25,000 professionals in the next four years in the United States," Rometty wrote in a USA Today piece published on Tuesday afternoon.

IBM spokesman Adam Pratt declined to say how that hiring might be offset by staff reductions or disclose how many people IBM employs in the United States. "We expect to end 2016 with our U.S. workforce about the same size as it was at the beginning of the year. By 2020,

we expect it to be larger than it is today," Pratt said.

IBM had nearly 378,000 employees at the end of 2015, according to the company's annual report. While the firm does not break out staff numbers by country, a review of government filings suggests IBM's U.S. workforce declined in each of the five years through 2015.

In annual Department of Labor filings, IBM has reported that the active number of participants in its 401(k) pension plan fell to 84,350 last year from 110,876 in 2010.

When asked why IBM planned to increase its U.S. workforce after those job cuts, company spokesman Ian Colley said in an email that Rometty had laid out the reasons in her USA Today piece. Her article did not acknowledge that IBM

had cut its U.S. workforce, although it called on Congress to quickly update the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that governs federal support for vocational education.

"We are hiring because the nature of work is evolving," she said. "As industries from manufacturing to agriculture are reshaped by data science and cloud computing, jobs are being created that demand new skills - which in turn requires new approaches to education, training and recruiting."

She said IBM intended to invest \$1 billion in the training and development of U.S. employees over the next four years. Pratt declined to say if that represented an increase over spending in the prior four years.

# CLASSIFIEDS

Regular: one insertion \$5 (full week (6x) \$25.  
Highlighted (border around ad): one insertion \$7 (full week (6x) \$35.  
Commercial rate (gray block): \$65 for one full week.

Classified ads should be booked before 3:00 pm at Bush Road 22 or at The Mailbox or Cyberlink. Ads must be paid in advance at all times (cash payment required). Maximum number of words: 30.

Pricing Classifieds with photo: personal: \$40 per week (max. 30 words with one picture).  
Commercial: \$85 per week (max. 30 words with one picture).

## FOR SALE VEHICLES

**2002 Mazda 232** for sale as is. In good condition. Call: 527-2818.

**2005 Acura MDX**, Pearl White, automatic, fully loaded, sunroof, Bose System, wood grain dash, 6-CD changer, 3rd row seating, A/C, good tires. Runs great, inspection until 2018. \$7,900 o.b.o. Call: 526-7888.



**2005 Mercedes Benz C230**, fully loaded, low mileage, looks brand new, best buy. Come test drive, pay and gooooo. Leaving Island soon. Call: 553-2168 or 522-5253.

**2011 black 2 door Suzuki Vitara** for sale. Manual transmission, 47,000km. \$5,500. Call: 580-0069

**2011 Hyundai Tucson**, new tires, low mileage, body and interior like new, engine very good and serviced always on time. Price negotiable. Call: 524-1626.

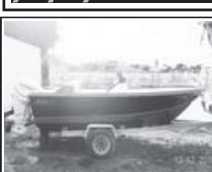
**2015 Hyundai HD72** Truck roll off. Hyundai i10 2014, 4 door. Call: 527-1402 for more information.

**2016 Ford Fusion** \$19,800. 2015 Kia Optima \$19,000. 2014 Honda Civic \$14,500. Negotiable. All cars are in good condition, very low mileage. Serious inquiries only. Call or WhatsApp 522-6334.



**This Christmas get this gift!!** Great family or taxi. 2006 Chrysler Pacifica Touring Edition, leather interior, 24000 miles, DVD player, in good condition. Price \$6,500 o.b.o. Call: 556-2414 or 522-8900.

## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE



**Boston Whaler 15 ft.** Engine Evinrude E-Tec 115HP. In excellent condition. US\$11,500. Call: 524-7604.

**For sale: New marine diesel engine** Kubota, 37HP, four cylinder, included transmission, ZF, twin disc, 1-2, gage panel and harness. \$5,500. Call: 524-7604.

**For sale: White-Premium brand stove** (standard size). Good condition, purchased new and used for less than 1 year. Price \$149 (negotiable). Call: 588-2970 for more information.

**Plant sale! Plant sale!** All types of different plants, come take a look and see beautiful plants for your garden, right across from the Tropicana Casino. Please call: 522-8990

**Yacht Charter Company** for sale. 50' Searay 2001, newly rebuilt engines, with N.V. and all good will. \$220,000. Email: info@topsecrexexcursions.com or call: 1-(205)488-2923.

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**1 bedroom Cupecoy.** Student area. Great annual return. Price \$175,000. Call: (1721)588-8290, 544-8910 or sxmdreams@gmail.com

**Almond Grove, Cole Bay:** Huge townhouse 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath totally renovated, modern high style, terrace, garden, common pool, 2 private parking, 24/7 security, \$595,000. Call: 581-6418 or 690-76-12-59.

**Almond Grove: Very nice house** 3 bedroom/2.5 bath, gazebo, pool, amazing lagoon/sea views, big garden, 2 private entrances, 24/7 security. Possibility to build a 2 bedroom. Quick sale \$550,000. Call: 581-6418.

**Beautiful apartment two rooms,** located at Cupecoy, newly renovated, sold with the furniture and lease, currently rented to a student USD\$1,170. Sale price USD\$139,000. Jillian (011)590-690-17-11-05.

**Condo unit for sale,** 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, open concept living & dining, private porch, 2 assigned parking, gated community. Price \$135,000. Call for more information: 554-8239.



**Cupecoy: 3 bedroom house,** studio apartment, US kitchen. Standby generator/pool/pool bar, large landscaped garden/sprinkler systems. Close to AUC/restaurants/Porto Cupecoy. 3 lots total 2200m<sup>2</sup>. Last lot open for development. \$875,000. Call: 520-6767/520-7665.

**Dawn Beach Estates** 4 bedroom, 3 bath, Jacuzzi tub, private pool, large kitchen, 1 bedroom inlaw suite needs minor cosmetic attention. Reduced to sell. \$375,000. Email: mylestyson@hotmail.com or call: 1-(250)488-2923.

**For sale: St. John's,** large lot 13590m<sup>2</sup> roadside. Call for more information 554-2336 or 581-5590.

**Land for sale** ±3000m<sup>2</sup>, sale price \$300,000 or make an offer. Call or WhatsApp 587-5456, 581-8993 or 522-2784 ask for Franco.

**Philipsburg Commercial and residential property** for sale. Right in the heart of town across from Penny's. Contact 580-2184 or 553-1184 for more details.

**St. Eustatius Land for Sale** (near town). 945 square meters. Ask price \$59,000. Serious inquiries only email: keryattadaniel88@gmail.com

**St. John's Estate** new townhouses, gated, intercom, generator, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath \$250,000. 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath \$285,000 price just reduce. Call: 554-2336 or 581-5590.

**St. John's lots** 827m<sup>2</sup>, flat land \$119,915. No charge for certificate, value \$2,000. Call: 554-2336 or 581-5590.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**(1) Cupecoy: Studio,** 24 hours security, pool, lush garden, A/C, super high speed Wi-Fi, brand new appliances, 5 minutes to Mullet Bay, top area! Bust stops at the gate. \$125/ per couple/night. Call: 580-1472.

**1 bedroom apartment for rent** in Pelican Key. Private parking, \$875/monthly, 2 months deposit. Available January 1st. Call: 523-3134 or 527-5855.

**1 bedroom apartment,** unfurnished, 6 Peach Road, South Reward. \$525 per month, 1 month deposit. Call: 524-0476.

**2 bedroom apartment for rent.** Quiet, clean area, private yard space, \$800 per month. Available January 1st, 2017. Call: 523-9101 or 581-8011.

**2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment** Mount Vista, Pointe Blanche. Fully furnished, beautiful inside and out, garden, pool, best view in SXM, quiet, secure. Available now, \$1,500. Call: 523-0709.

**Almond Grove, Cole Bay,** very nice house 3 bedroom, 3 bath, big terrace and great lagoon and sea view. Unfurnished (just appliances), common pool, 24/7 security, \$2,800/monthly. Call: 581-6418.

**Almond Grove, Cole Bay:** Big duplex 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath semi furnished, terraces, private garden with fence, 2 private parking, common pool, security 24/7, no pets. \$2,200 monthly. Call: 581-6418.

**Back Street: Small 2 bedroom** apartment for rent near GEBE. \$650 per month, one month deposit. Call: 588-1821.



**Beacon Hill Road #28:** Short term, Oceanfront view, 1 bedroom/2 bath, 25 ft patio, fully furnished, washer/dryer, gated security guard 6pm-6am, parking, Wi-Fi, Dish TV. \$840/week. Dog friendly, quiet private. Email: stmaarten2rent@yahoo.com, call: 520-1150.

**Cole Bay: 1 bedroom,** 1 bath furnished, A/C, shutters, parking, walking distance to shops and restaurants, \$1,050. Available January 15th. Call: 554-2336 or 581-5590.

**Cole Bay: Very big and new nice** apartment in a house (1st floor), 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 3 terraces, private parking, gate, semi furnished. \$2,950 or furnished \$3,200 monthly. Call: 581-6418.

**Cupecoy: Spacious one bedroom,** one bath furnished, covered balcony, security, great views, parking \$1,500/month. Pointe Blanche: Studio at Tamarind Hotel, kitchenette, laundry, pool, \$750/month. Call: 522-6865.

**Dawn Beach, two bedroom** \$800/month. Gated community, 24 hours security, A/C, hot & cold water, parking. Call: 523-6603/524-1939.

**For rent: A one bedroom unfurnished** apartment with A/C in Almond Grove. Approximately 65m<sup>2</sup> with terrace and beautiful view. For details please contact: 559-4580.

**For rent: Betty's Estate,** very nice and large 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath apartment with A/C in all rooms and gated property, \$1,750. Call: 554-2336 or 581-5590.

**For rent: Harbor View,** Philipsburg, 3rd floor with elevator, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, all furnished and equipped, parking, security, common pool, Gazebo and barbecue. Available now. USD\$2,400 included internet, TV. Please call: 587-2205.

**Grove Residence: 1 bedroom,** 1 bath, terrace, common pool and tropical garden, furnished, USD\$1,300 monthly. Please call 587-2205.

**Guana Bay close to the sea,** very nice house 3 bedroom, 3 bath, big garden, semi furnished, terrace, parking, \$2,500 monthly. Call: 581-6418.

**Guana Bay: 2 bedrooms,** 2 bathroom apartment in quiet, gated community, a few minutes walking distance from the beach, semi furnished, fully air-conditioned. Price \$1,500. Call: 581-7555 or 588-8656.

**Little Bay: Fully furnished studio,** view, garden, outdoor shower, Wi-Fi, gebe \$1,000. Great Bay: 1 bedroom/1 bath, 2nd floor, A/C, \$500. Call: 522-5838.

**Maho: Penthouse,** 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 terraces, fantastic sea views, fully furnished. Extra-large one bedroom. Loft studio with 2 beds. Call: (1721)581-4494.

**New 2 bedroom/2 bathroom** apartment with a/c in Philipsburg, US\$1,250 monthly. Call: 587-3767.

**Newly constructed 4 bedroom/4** bath house. Semi furnished, washer/dryer, private entrance, ocean view, Dawn Beach Estate. Gated community, \$3,000 monthly. Available now. Call: 520-0102 for viewing.

**Pelican: Weekly rentals studio** fully equipped with linens, TV, A/C, Wi-Fi, cable, pool, \$550/week. 1 week studio @ La Vista Resort \$800/week. Close to the beach, restaurant, and supermarket. Call: (721)523-9931 or email: ranchinthesty@caribserve.net

**Pointe Blanche spacious 2 bedroom,** 2 bathroom, a/c, utilities not included, unfurnished, \$1,150 p/m. Call: 581-9249 or 554-0543.

**Simpson Bay Yacht Club:** Office unit for rent, conveniently central located, connected to generator. USD\$1,900 p/m excluding utilities. Call: 542-5103. Email: krebbers-smx@caribserve.net or www.krebbersrealestate.com

**Spacious beautiful villa style 1** bedroom apartment located in Cole Bay with beautiful view overlooking Simpson Bay lagoon. Conveniently situated near shopping & restaurants, \$900-\$1,250. Serious inquiries only. Call: 586-3011.

**Sucker Garden: 3 bedroom house** for rent. One large porch, wash room, back yard, gorgeous view watching the ship row in our beautiful island. Monthly rent \$1,000, deposit \$1,000. Call: 580-7590.

**Villa Cupecoy Beach: 4-6 persons,** 2 bedroom, 3 baths fully furnished, ocean view, private pool, security, parking, \$3,000/week. Tel: (1721)588-8290, 544-8910 or sxmdreams@gmail.com

**Warehouse 600m<sup>2</sup> prime** location. Ideal for any business. Available immediately. Call: + (1721)587-0247 or 690-55-70-46.

## VACANCIES

**Looking for driver-guide** with experience. English mandatory, additional languages would be a plus. Dutch papers required. Valid Dutch Driver's License Category D necessary. Please contact (1721)522-74-07.

**Madame Estate: Office for** rent \$35 per m<sup>2</sup>, spacious rooms approx. 70m<sup>2</sup>, mutual main-entrance, own kitchen and bathroom facilities, connected to generator. Call: 542-5103 or email: krebbers-smx@caribserve.net or www.krebbersrealestate.com

**Tour Operator seeking,** young dynamic staff and good presentation. English speaking mandatory, for high season, Dutch paper required. Please contact (1721)522-7407.

**Vacancy: Office Assistant.** Must be fluent in English. Excellent organizational skills. Ability to handle e-mails, basic computer knowledge, QuickBooks is a plus. Friendly, team-player, able to handle ad-hoc tasks. E-mail resume: sxmtechnology@gmail.com

## PETS FOR SALE



**New Arrivals, just in time** for a Christmas gift!!! Caribbean Pet Center has Goldfish, Comets, Platies, Koi, Black Moor, Fantail, Angel, Water Turtles, Clown Loaches, Cichlids, Bala Shark, Sword Tail, assorted Tetras and much more! Contact: (1721)522-8900 or (1721)526-7387. Email: caribbeanpuppies@gmail.com or visit our Facebook: Caribbean Pet Center

**A classified in The Daily Herald means RESULTS**

## Meet Waymo, Google's self-driving car company

SAN FRANCISCO--Alphabet Inc.'s Google self-driving car project recast itself as Waymo on Tuesday, an independent entity within the technology giant, as executives suggested the company is close to bringing its autonomous driving to the public.

Although no deals were announced, the move signals a desire to finally monetize the company's valuable research amid fierce competition from a score of rivals all vying to be the first to launch production-ready self-driving cars. Google's high-profile program, now in its seventh year, has been at the forefront of self-driving technology, but is now challenged by companies from Uber Technologies Inc to Apple Inc and traditional car companies in the fast-growing industry.

"It's an indication of the maturity of our technology," John Krafcik, Waymo's chief executive, told reporters at a press conference in San Francisco. "We can imagine our self-driving tech being used in all sorts of areas."

The move shows "confidence that we are close to bringing this (technology) to a lot of people," Krafcik said. "We've sort of reached an inflection point."

That came in October 2015, when one of the company's self-driving cars gave the first fully autonomous ride in Austin, Texas, to a blind man with no one else in the car. Normally during testing, an engineer sits in the passenger seat to monitor the technology.

Until now, the program has been part of secretive research unit Google X. Waymo stands for "A new way forward in mobility," according to Krafcik. Waymo would reveal when the technology will be production-ready "soon," he said.

Krafcik reiterated that Waymo has no interest in producing self-driving cars, but rather in developing the technology to drive them. Possible applications would be in ride-sharing, transportation, trucking, logistics, and personal use vehicles, he said.

Fiat Chrysler, Google's first partner, teamed up with the tech company in May to work together to integrate Google's self-driving system into 100 of the carmaker's minivans.

## UniCredit to raise 13 bln euros in Italy's biggest-ever share issue

MILAN/LONDON-- Italy's largest bank, UniCredit, plans to raise 13 billion euros (\$13.8 billion) in the country's biggest-ever share issue to shore up its balance sheet and shield itself from a broader banking crisis.

The plans announced on Tuesday also include 14,000 job cuts and more than 900 branch closures. They come at a turbulent time for Italian banks and the economy - with Monte dei Paschi di Siena at risk of failure, a new government just installed in Rome and early elections expected next year.

UniCredit, the only Italian bank deemed important to the stability of the global financial system, has lost about half its market value this year, hit by profitability concerns, bad loans and a weaker balance sheet than major European rivals.

Chief Executive Jean Pierre Mustier said the bank planned to launch the share issue in the first quarter of 2017 and use the money to help mop up 17.7 billion euros worth of bad debts from its balance sheet, enabling it to boost its profits and also dividend payouts by 2019. Drafted in five months ago, the former Societe Generale executive has sought to streamline the bank, selling assets like fund manager Pioneer and Polish unit Bank Pekao.

"We've taken some bold

actions because self-help is always the best thing to do," the 55-year-old told analysts in a call.

Joseph Oughourlian, CEO at UniCredit shareholder Amber Capital, said he was a firm believer in Mustier. "Sorting out UniCredit is huge service and a plus for the Italian banking sector. We now have the two largest banks in Italy well-capitalised," he said. Italy's other major bank is Intesa Sanpaolo.

The issue would take the bank's core capital ratio to above 12.5 percent in 2019, from about 10.8 percent now, though UniCredit envisages deep job cuts. It plans to shed 14,000 jobs, or about 11 percent of its staff as of end-2015. Including announced asset sales, the bank will have a third less staff by 2019, compared with the end of last year, as a result of its turnaround plan. It also plans to close 944 branches in its core areas of Italy, Germany and Austria by 2019.

Mustier pledged to cut his fixed salary by 40 percent to 1.2 million euros with no annual bonus this year or during the plan to 2019.

While UniCredit expects net profit to increase to 4.7 billion euros in 2019 from 1.5 billion last year, it projects revenue will rise just 0.6 percent annually, with growth mainly coming from

fees and commissions. The bank said it would maintain its focus on central and eastern Europe as a growth area where revenues should grow by 2.6 percent a year and streamline its investment banking business.

Shares in the bank jumped 10 percent on news of its plans, with traders saying its targets seemed realistic. The turnaround, though, would involve 12.2 billion euros in one-off losses in the fourth quarter, including loan writedowns and restructuring costs.



UniCredit's bank logo is pictured on block notes and pens at the headquarters in Milan, Italy, February 9, 2016.

## WhatsApp, Skype face tighter constraints under new European Union privacy rules

BRUSSELS--Messaging services such as Microsoft's Skype and Facebook's WhatsApp face stricter rules on the way they handle customer data under new privacy laws due to be proposed by the European Union, according to a draft document seen by Reuters.

The EU executive wants to extend some rules that now only apply to telecom operators to web companies offering calls and messages using the internet, known as "Over-The-Top" (OTT) services, according to the draft.

Web services will have to

guarantee the confidentiality of communications and obtain users' consent to process their location data, mirroring similar provisions included in a separate data protection law due to come into force in 2018. Online advertisers will also face strict rules on how they can target ads at web users based on their browsing history.

Telecoms companies have long complained that groups such as Alphabet Inc's Google, Microsoft and Facebook are more lightly regulated, even though they offer similar

services. The phone companies have called for European Union rules specific to telecoms firms - known as the e-privacy directive - either to be repealed or extended to everyone.

"If Europe wants a Silicon Valley, it needs radical regulatory simplification. We won't get new digital services unless we overhaul e-Privacy," Lise Fuhr, director general of ETNO, the European telecoms operators association, said.

The draft proposals would prohibit the automatic processing of people's data without their consent. Ad-

vertisers say such automatic processing is low risk as it involves data that can not identify the user. Fines for breaking the new law will be steep at up to 4 percent of a company's global turnover.

A Commission spokeswoman declined to comment on the draft but said the aim of the review was to adapt the rules to the data protection regulation which will come into force in 2018 and simplify the provisions for cookies. Cookies are placed on web surfers' computers and contain bits of information about the user, such as what other sites they have visited or where they are logging in from. They are widely used by companies to deliver targeted ads to users.

Telecom companies, barred by current rules from using customer data to provide additional services and make more money, will be able to use customer data with their consent, according to the proposal. It would also remove the obligation on websites to ask visitors for permission to place cookies on their browsers via a banner if the user has already consented through the privacy settings of the web browser.

"If browsers are equipped with such functionality, websites that want to set cookies for behavioral advertising purposes may not need to put in place banners requesting their consent insofar as users may provide their consent by selecting the right settings in their browser," the draft said.

## Japan casino bill clears panel, paves way to legalise gambling

TOKYO--A contentious bill to legalise casinos in Japan cleared a key parliamentary panel on Tuesday, paving the way for high-stakes gambling in the world's third-biggest economy.

Brushing off concerns - even from within Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition - over gambling addiction and other social ills, lawmakers in an upper house committee approved the bill, which essentially assures its enactment into law. It had failed repeatedly in previous parliaments to come up for a vote.

Domestic and international companies from MGM Resorts International to Japanese game-machine maker Sega Sammy Holdings Inc could benefit from legalised casinos in Japan,

a market that brokerage CLSA estimates could be worth up to \$40 billion a year.

Abe coalition has a strong majority in the upper house, so the bill is almost certain to be approved by the full chamber on Wednesday, the last day of this parliamentary session. It has already cleared the lower house.

Vocal criticism of the bill from both the ruling coalition and opposition parties had centred on concerns about gambling-related social ills such as addiction and organised crime. An opinion poll this week by public broadcaster NHK found opposition at 44 percent and support at just 12 percent, with 34 percent of respondents undecided.

"Whether casinos will be a plus or not for society



A dealer picks up chips on a mock black jack casino table during a photo opportunity at an international tourism promotion symposium in Tokyo, Japan September 28, 2013.

is not only a question of making money," said Masaaki Machida of gambling addiction support group Hopehill. "Costs for treating (addicts) would be a spiritual, economic and social loss for Japan."

Supporters of the bill, which allows for large-scale

projects that combine casinos with hotel, shopping and conference space, see casinos as a way to boost tourism - a key success of Abe's economic growth policies. Proponents hope to submit legislation next year to set out full details of the construction, regulation and location of these

"integrated resorts."

Tokyo, neighbouring Yokohama and the western city of Osaka are in the running as potential locations for casinos. Smaller places on the islands of Kyushu and Hokkaido are also hopeful of being selected.

# Democrats could do business with Trump on these five issues

By Josh Cohen

After Donald Trump's stunning election victory, Democratic legislators now face a fork in the road: cooperate with Trump or oppose him at every turn.

Given the tenor of the Trump campaign – including its attacks on Latinos, Muslims and other minori-

ties – it's understandable that many Democrats feel the urge to dig in their heels. But many of Trump's campaign promises actually represent long-time Democratic priorities. Given these overlaps, it's in Democrats' best interest to at least explore working with Trump on these issues: Infrastructure

Rebuilding the United States' crumbling infrastructure – which needs \$3.6 trillion in spending by 2020, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers – represents the best opportunity for Democrats to advance one of their longtime priorities. Senate Republicans previously blocked two major Democratic-sponsored infrastructure bills, leaving President Barack Obama and Senate Democrats fuming.

Trump, by contrast, made infrastructure a campaign priority, calling for \$500 billion in additional spending – even arguing that Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's own infrastructure plan was not ambitious enough. But given conservatives' open resistance to Trump's infrastructure spending, the president-elect will almost certainly need Congressional Democrats' help to get an infrastructure bill passed.

This does not mean Democrats should back whatever

infrastructure plan Trump proposes – particularly if funding for the plan involves giving tax breaks to private investors without the direct public spending most experts agree is necessary to fix the most dire infrastructure problems. But if Democrats can negotiate a compromise with Trump – perhaps through a program that combines direct government spending supplemented by private investment – then they should help Trump push an infrastructure bill through Congress. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Research shows that the EITC – which puts additional money into the pockets of the working poor through tax rebates – is an ideal poverty fighting tool. Democrats have long called for expanding it, and both conservative and liberal think tanks agree with them. Most importantly, so does Trump. In fact, Trump even called for supplementing the EITC by creating new Dependent Care Savings Accounts (DCSAs), which would allow families to create tax-deductible accounts to spend on child care expenses or after-school enrichment programs, as well as covering in-home nursing expenses for elderly dependents.

Trump's plan even offers to provide a partial government grant to families' DCSAs once they are established, a step analogous to the 401(K) matching many organizations – including the federal government – provide their employees. If Democrats want to provide direct assistance to lower and middle-income workers, they support a Trump bill to should test Trump's level of commitment to implement his EITC and DCSA proposals.

Ending the "Carried Interest" Tax Loophole

Carried interest is a tax loophole that allows partners at hedge funds and private equity funds – generally among the richest Americans – to treat their profits as capital gains rather than ordinary income. This means fund managers' profits are taxed at a maximum of 20 percent, as opposed to the 39.6 percent top salaried workers must pay. Even wealthy investors like Warren Buffet and Bill Gross decry the carried interest loophole, and despite the campaign rancor between them, both Trump and Hillary Clinton agreed that carried interest should be taxed as ordinary income.

Democrats should remind Trump that he publicly committed to finally ending this loophole – and should work with him if he takes the initiative to do so. Non-Interventionist Foreign Policy

During his campaign Trump bemoaned the \$4 trillion the United States spent "trying to topple various people," arguing that the money would have been better spent on infrastructure. Since his election, Trump has doubled-down on these views, promising to put forward a non-interventionist foreign policy that focused on confronting Islamic State and other groups.

Democrats such as Sanders in the Senate and Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) in the House share Trump's desire to scale back American interventionism. Even President Obama has gradually developed an aversion to regime change, resisting calls for a no-fly zone in Syria. When Trump inevitably comes under pressure from Republican hawks who want a more interventionist approach, Democrats who

share Trump's skepticism about regime change should help him resist these calls.

While there's no guarantee Democrats and Trump will agree on all of these policies, Democrats lose nothing by at least exploring opportunities to cooperate with Trump. From a policy perspective, declining the opportunity to achieve Democratic goals just to punish Trump only hurts the very working and middle class constituencies Democrats claim to support.

Cooperating with Trump in these areas also makes sense politically, since it could drive a wedge between Trump and the Republicans in Congress who oppose these ideas.

To be clear, Democrats should still resist Trump in a number of areas. First and foremost, if Trump continues the types of attacks on women and minorities he made during his campaign, particularly if he attempts to introduce a Muslim registry, Democrats must condemn him. They should also demand that Trump reproach his most noxious supporters among white nationalists or the so-called "alt-right."

On policy, Democrats must confront any attempts by Trump to roll back the United States' commitment to fighting climate change global warming, particularly if Trump decides to go forward with his pledge to pull out of last year's Paris climate agreement. If Trump tries to dismantle Obamacare – and especially if he pushes a plan that repeals but doesn't replace the program – Democrats must follow up on their plan to block Trump by pointing out the millions Americans who would be left without health insurance and targeting persuadable Republican senators to join them in opposition to the new president.

Democrats must also push back against Trump if he sides with House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to gut Medicare by privatizing it.

Finally, Democrats should stand firm in their support for a path to citizenship and resist any radical Trump initiatives to deport millions.

Democrats will have much to fight Trump on. But that should not stop them from supporting him where it advances their own agenda. ~ Reuters ~

Josh Cohen is a former US-AID project officer involved in managing economic reform projects in the former Soviet Union. The opinions expressed are his own.

Ian Shaw

**UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle**

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	5	6						
		4	2		6	7		
			3	9	4	8		
	6	1	7	5			2	
7							6	
9		6	8	4	1			
	3	1	2	4				
	6	9		5	3			
			1	7				

12/14 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆ © 2016 by Universal Uclick

**Previous puzzle solution**

1	4	3	6	8	5	2	7	9
8	6	7	3	9	2	4	5	1
2	9	5	7	4	1	8	3	6
3	1	6	8	5	4	7	9	2
9	7	4	1	2	3	6	8	5
5	2	8	9	6	7	1	4	3
4	8	2	5	3	6	9	1	7
6	5	1	4	7	9	3	2	8
7	3	9	2	1	8	5	6	4

- ACROSS**
- Debtor's note
  - Has a \_\_\_-may-care attitude; is easygoing
  - Fly alone
  - Little kids
  - Banish
  - "Once \_\_\_ a time..."
  - Argument
  - \_\_\_ a halt to; stops
  - Annoying one
  - Not even embarrassed
  - Bump \_\_\_; meet unexpectedly
  - Fishing worm, for example
  - Very long time
  - Trix spokesman
  - Abridge; make smaller
  - Felt sick
  - Curtside
  - \_\_\_ flash; instantly
  - Pitt or Garrett
  - Two-\_\_\_; betrayed
  - Sign of a past surgery
  - Sleeper's place
  - Possessed
  - Coil of yarn
  - Dreamer; unrealistic one
  - Necklace beads
  - Become firm
  - Tap a golf ball
  - Drill a hole
  - Cross, as two highways might
  - Large kitchen appliance
  - VP Al & his kin
  - Unusual
  - \_\_\_ as a pin
  - Japanese 3-line poem
  - Murdered
  - Goes astray
  - "\_\_\_ Were the Days"
  - Charge

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/14/16

- DOWN**
- "\_\_\_ a boy!"
  - Fumbler's word
  - Provo's state
  - Trickery
  - Praise highly
  - Contemptible
  - Woes
  - Decreased
  - Lying flat
  - Unlocked
  - Nowhere to be found
  - Hold \_\_\_; keep
  - Used a fork, perhaps
  - Housekeeper
  - Like 1, 3, and 5
  - Temple leader
  - Televised
  - Part of a sword
  - One of Santa's reindeer
  - Was in the red
  - More pleasant
  - Slow crawler
  - Makes money
  - Canisters
  - Early evening
  - Ice rink figures
  - Vaudevillian \_\_\_
  - Olsen
  - \_\_\_ up; arranges
  - Insurance policy sellers
  - Follow; chase
  - Takes a quick look
  - Ulna or scapula
  - Finished
  - Raise, as kids
  - Ark builder
  - Threesome
  - Baby cow
  - Cottonwood or cypress
  - Female sheep

## A simple solution to Front Street crime

Dear Editor,

The simplest solution to the growing crime being perpetrated against our jewellery merchants is to eliminate the getaway vehicles of the criminals.

First, all scooter and motorcycle traffic should be banned from the street during business hours. Two police officers should be stationed on Front Street at all times, one at L'Escargot and one in the square just beside Ballerina.

All cars coming down the street should be stopped by the officers, if the car is occupied by an obvious tourist or delivery vehicle then they should be allowed to pass. If the car in question is occupied by non-tourists or not a delivery person then those vehicles should be steered up the streets past Anand Indian restaurant in the case of the L'Escargot stop, or up past the courthouse in the case of the centre of town.

Presto, no more getaway vehicles.

# The lessons of Aleppo's long, pointless siege

By Peter Apps

In its 7,000 years of existence, Aleppo has been fought over by Babylonians, Greeks and Romans. The modern battle for the ancient Syrian city, however, may yet be as significant for the future of the Middle East as those fought by the kingdoms and empires of the past.

The four-year battle for Aleppo now seems to be reaching its final stages. More than any other place, the city – one of the oldest continually inhabited places in the world – has been the epicenter of the Syria conflict.

In time, Syria may be seen to define the early 21<sup>st</sup> century the way the Spanish Civil War did the 1930s – a perfect storm of all the worst trends in global politics and conflict. If it is, then Aleppo will be its Guernica, the Spanish town carpet bombed by Nazi aircraft in 1937 in a savage precursor to the horrors of the coming World War Two.

As long as it held out, Aleppo made a mockery of President Bashar al Assad's ambition to once again be seen as ruler of everywhere important in Syria. Even now with Russian support, the Syrian government's attempts to seize it back have been largely unsuccessful. And in diverting its forces to the most recent Aleppo assault, Damascus left Palmyra too lightly defended and vulnerable to Islamic State, which recaptured the ancient city on Sunday.

Aleppo might always have been doomed. The victory of Donald Trump in the U.S. presidential election, however, appears to have settled the matter. Had Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton prevailed, those fighting to protect the last handful of rebel enclaves in the city might finally have seen Washington drawn into the fight, if only through enforcing a no-fly zone against Syrian and Russian aircraft.

That might have been dangerous for the rest of the world. But it would have offered at least a limited salvation for those still fighting in Aleppo.

Trump has signaled that he intends to take a very different approach, pledging to work with Moscow and prioritize the fight against Islamic State. European nations still want some kind of political transition deal to remove the Syrian leader

– something Washington now seems much less likely to support.

The battle is not quite over. The failure of Assad's forces to take the sprawling city suggests they lack the combat power to do so. Russian and Syrian bombing may kill hundreds if not thousands of civilians, but the attacks will not in themselves bring victory to Damascus.

Nonetheless, it increasingly looks as though that relative lack of military strength will not matter. The opposition now knows it cannot win.

According to a Reuters exclusive report, U.S. and Russian officials have been brokering a deal to allow surviving rebel forces to escape the city. That isn't just the Syrian regime and its backers showing mercy – it is also them taking advantage of an offer that allows them to claim diplomatically a prize that might have required months or years to achieve through force of arms.

The end of the siege will be in some ways a humanitarian blessing, whoever might win. If fighting is over, supplies and medical services will likely get through to a suffering population. Targeting hospitals and blocking aid shipments has been a key part of the Syrian-Russian strategy. Once the city has been captured, restoring such services will likely be a part of reasserting authority.

The darker side of the fighting's end, however, is already also becoming clear, with reports of perhaps hundreds of fighting age men "disappeared" or killed after surrender. If the Assad government regains control over the rebel city, it will likely use brutal measures to reduce any prospect of further insurrection – especially if it feels neither the United States nor other major powers will take any action.

Any harsh response by Assad shouldn't be surprising. What has and will happen in Aleppo is little different to that in thousands of other sieges throughout history. But as it appears to be ending, it's worth examining why it took so long to reach this point.

The West's half-hearted approach to Syria's civil war – giving support to rebel forces, but never enough to beat the government or its Russian allies – has been an unmitigated failure. Perhaps the United States, the United Kingdom and others

should share the guilt for the horror that has come with it.

The Syria conflict has always had many moving pieces. Even now, formulating policy is complicated by the myriad rival interests – Kurds, Arabs, Alawites, the competing concerns of half a dozen nations.

In the process, the wider political landscape of the Middle East has been redrawn. In the early days of the uprising, the Assad government was heavily reliant on Iran as its main ally, the opposition on rival Arab states. In the last two years, however, Russia has been calling the shots.

If Aleppo is to fall shortly, then much of the credit – if that is the right word – must go to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Russia has established a potential new role for itself, a source of military power for autocratic regimes the West might rather see gone. What we

don't know is whether that will be a sign of things to come.

In Libya in 2011, the West looked at a similar situation – the looming fall of Benghazi to forces of Muammar Gaddafi – and launched itself into a military intervention that many policymakers now regret. In Aleppo, in contrast, Western governments never did more than dabble.

In some ways, that was inevitable. After the disasters of Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, the feeling in Washington and Europe was that there was little to gain and much to lose. With the migrant crisis, Europe in particular found itself paying a much higher price for the bloodshed in Syria than it ever anticipated – but that in itself did not appear to justify any intervention.

In Islamic State, the West was persuaded it had found an enemy it was necessary to fight – in part because it was

indissolubly linked to the fight for the future of Iraq, a battle in which the United States and its allies at least largely knew which side they were on.

Syria – and Aleppo in particular – never had good options. As I've written before, it might just have been best never to have encouraged the opposition at all.

If the battle of Aleppo is seen as some kind of regional historic turning point, historians may well be arguing over it for genera-

tions. As it draws to a close, however, only one thing is truly apparent – that a city that started the century as a relatively cosmopolitan metropolis and destination for Western tourists has been reduced to rubble. And that all the fighting and international handwringing may ultimately have made little difference to who actually runs Syria. ~ Reuters ~

*Peter Apps is Reuters global affairs columnist. The opinions expressed here are his own.*

*It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of:*



## Davidson Alton Riviere

*better known as: Pinky and Mambo*

Sunrise: August 16th, 1961  
Sunset: December 5th, 2016

- Wife: Magdalene Riviere (SXM)
- Children: Chad Riviere (SXM), Kirn Riviere (USA), Marie Lou Ludford Riviere (USA) & Yasmin Riviere (SXM).
- Mother: † The late Avanel Riviere (Dom.)
- Father: † The late Lochart Riviere (Dom.)
- Sisters: Jenifer Riviere-Ferreria a.k.a. June (USA), Shirley Riviere-Woodman (USA), Decima Williams (St. Thomas), Ruthine Riviere (Dom.), Josephine Jemmott, Georgiana Riviere-Williams & Family (St. Thomas,) and the late Josephine Riviere.
- Brothers: Winston Riviere (Barbados), Donny Riviere, (Dom.), † the late Andrew Riviere and † the late Eddie Riviere.
- Uncles: George, Desmond, Roberson, Emery, Davidson Riviere, Rogerson Riviere and Shinwell Riviere.
- Aunts: Robertha Riviere, Windith, Rosie Riviere-Mills, Josephine Brown and Cammie.
- Grandchildren: Cassey Riviere (Cassie), Joella Riviere & Léyanna Riviere.
- Step Children: Karen, Anne Marie, Chris and Tracy.
- Nieces & Nephews too numerous to mention
- In-laws: Swales, Joan, Henry and Nathaniel.
- Close friends: Lou lou, Marlon, Clifford, Dreddie, Bernard, Bernice, Jennifer and Pastor Louie.

He was related to the: Baley, Connor, Ryner, Mark, James, Cannegieter, Woodman, Ferreria, Williams, Shillingford, Augustine, Stewart, Sorrell, Ross, Vigil, David, Joseph, Celestine, Mills, David and Reiph families.

A wake will be held at the "Little Well Oasis in Cole Bay on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016. from 7:00 pm. - 12:00 pm.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, caretakers @ the SMMC and all those who took the time to visit & call during his illness. Special thanks to the Management & Staff of Central Mix Concrete N.V.

The funeral service for the late Davidson Alton Riviere better known as Pinky and Mambo will be held on Friday, December 16th, 2016. at Zaegersgut Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Philipsburg. Viewing & tributes will be from: 12:00 pm. - 1:30 pm. Service begins at: 1:30 pm. Interment takes place thereafter at: Cul-de-Sac Cemetery.

May his soul rest in eternal Peace

The Management and staff of Emerald Funeral Home would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.



We regret to announce the passing of



## Ivan Quant

Sunrise: Jan 29th, 1944 - Sunset: December 5th, 2016

**He leaves to mourn:**

**Siblings:** Hildegarda, Erwin and Ivarret Quant, Glen, Lauren, Hildegarda, Mereline Barbara, Pleegezzin Montestant.

**Children:** Ivan Cijntie, Jair and Nolan Quant, Joada Carty, Yeliza, Kenia and Naireny Quant.

**Grandchildren:** Jeadien and Shane Quant, Marivanne, Maryvienneshely, Viennedelyne and Davidson Cijntie, Keisy and Kenisha Quant, Gaireny Gumbs, Dioel Rogers.

**Niece and Nephews too numerous to mention**

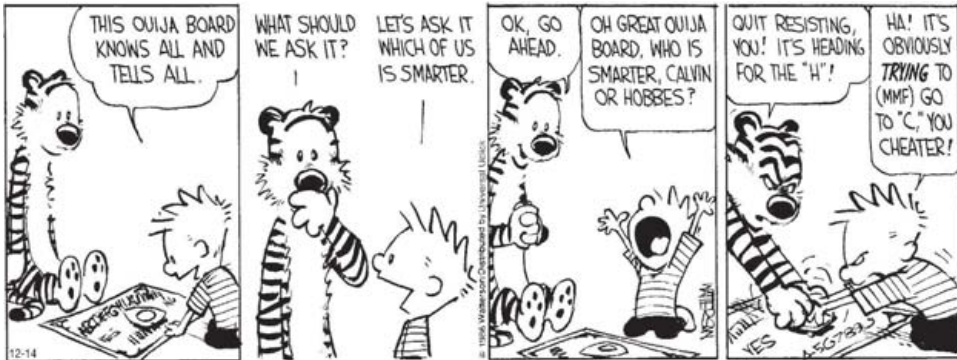
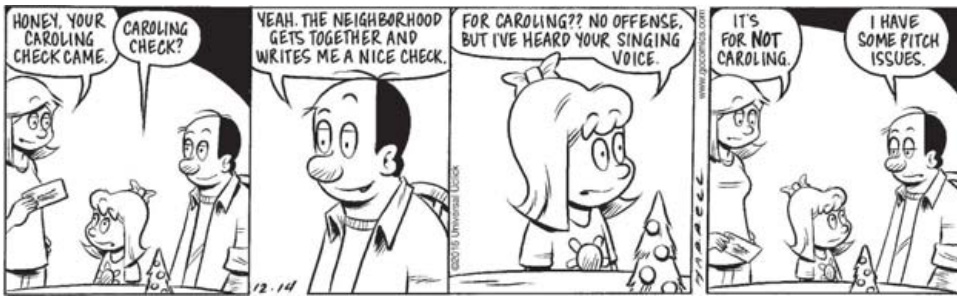
**Special friends:** Lennard Gumbs, Lissa "Big Twin" Gumbs, Liesje "Lil Twin" Gumbs, Felix Martina, Angel Rodriguez, Esmir Rodriguez, Morrison Bobby

**Good friends/Care givers:** Alfida, Nury, Edubirgen and Leida Alfonso

**Families to be mentioned are:** Quant, Barbara, Montesant, Hermanus, Heyliger, Carty, Gumbs.

A memorial service/ gathering of family and friends will be held on Thursday, December 15th, 2016 at the Royal Funeral Home & Crematorium, Sucker Garden. Tributes and condolences from: 12:30pm to 1:15pm. Service will commence at 1:15pm - 2:00pm.

**All services entrusted to Royal Funeral Home and Crematorium.**  
May His Soul Rest in Peace



# HOROSCOPE

By Nancy Black

**Today's Birthday (December 14)** – Teamwork is your magic key this year. Collaborate and support your friendships. Find a new educational road next spring, before your home and family flowers. Creative changes next autumn lead to incredible cultural and academic discoveries. Share love, gratitude and appreciation.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) – Today is an 8 – Beautify and improve the functionality and comfort of your home over the next two days. Think about color, line and form. Simplicity has elegance.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) – Today is a 9 – Write, record and film your next opus. You're especially creative with words and expression over the next few days. Learn whatever you need to know.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) – Today is a 9 – You can navigate a little chaos. Make extra money over the next two days. Balance new work with old responsibilities. Keep your customers satisfied.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) – Today is an 8 – Personal matters have your focus today and tomorrow. Pamper yourself. Try a new haircut or style. Take time for passion projects and secret obsessions.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) – Today is a 6 – Let a spiritual lesson sink in today and tomorrow. Meditation and prayer give peace of mind and heart. Consider past, present and future. Make plans.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Today is a 9 – Huddle with your team over the next few days. Community and group projects go well. Benefits come through social connections. Throw parties for common benefit.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) – Today is a 9 – Growth possibilities have you excited. The impossible seems accessible. Plan for two days in the spotlight. You're attracting the attention of someone important. Smile and wave.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) – Today is an 8 – Get adventurous and step out. The next two days are good for expanding your territory and perspective. Practice outrageous creativity. Dreams reveal your true feelings.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) – Today is a 9 – Emotional release provides freedom. So does paying off debt. Manage shared accounts over the next two days. Share gratitude for what you've received. Pay it forward.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Today is a 9 – Coordinate efforts with your partner over the next two days. Schedule carefully for efficiency. Negotiate and compromise. Compassion is a huge factor. Work together.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) – Today is a 9 – Balance health and work today and tomorrow. Crank up some good music and pick up the pace. Find ways to magnify the work you love.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) – Today is an 8 – The next two days are reserved for fun. Make time for love, family, friendship and romance. Practice your talents and arts. Follow your heart.



**Speak your mind**  
By Queenie

**SEND LETTERS TO  
P.O. BOX 828  
FAX +599 5425913  
or e-mail  
queenie@thedailyherald.com**

**Dear Queenie,**

My mother-in-law is always after me to let my children come visit her for the afternoon. I don't like letting such young children out of my sight.

Queenie, how can I say no without being rude?—**Young mother**

**Dear Mother,**

Do you have any real reason not to trust your mother-in-law to look after your children for a few hours? If so, why not take them to visit her and stay with them while they visit? But if not, why not take advantage of the offer of free childcare for an afternoon to enjoy some alone time or run a few errands unencumbered?

**Only notices of fund-raising events for non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices/Events should be sent to [notices@thedailyherald.com](mailto:notices@thedailyherald.com) in the format used on this page. Do not send fliers or press releases to this address.**

**NOTICES**

**Exercise for the Elderly**

Exercise is the key to healthy aging. For those 60+, your current physical condition can benefit from exercise. Join More Movement for the Elderly by participating in the next activity at St. Martin's Home (St. John's Estate) on Saturday, December 17, from 10.30am to 12.00pm. This activity is being given by the White and Yellow Cross Foundation. For more information, call Collective Prevention Services at 542-3003 or 542-2078.

**Gift Giving**

K1 Britannia Foundation will fill the Christmas tree in Clem Labega Square with little angels during the weekend of December 16-18 from 9:00am to 7:00pm. Choose an angel, buy a gift and return home with a great Christmas angel to hang on your Christmas tree as a reminder that you touched a life and made someone's Christmas special this year. Each gift is made with love by and represents a foster child, a client of Sister Basilia Centre, a resident of St. Martin's Home, a child under social services and others.

**Volunteer Project Managers**

The SXM DOET Team is looking for Volunteer Project Managers to assist with SXM DOET 2017. You'll be requested to support NGOs with their projects, communication, groundwork, among many other things. Interested in helping contribute to the cause? Email: [info.sxmdoet@gmail.com](mailto:info.sxmdoet@gmail.com) or call 586-0808. For more info go to [www.facebook.com/SXM-DOET](http://www.facebook.com/SXM-DOET) or [www.SXMDOET.com](http://www.SXMDOET.com).

**FAMOUS MEDIUM MR. MOUSSA**



EFFICIENT AND QUICK HELP: HE SOLVES ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS; MONEY, FAMILY, LOVE, BAD LUCK, RETURN OF LOVED ONE, PROTECTION, AFFECTION, BUSINESS, LUCK IN EXAMS AND ALL GAMES. WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEMS, EVEN THE MOST DESPERATE. DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME. HELPS YOU WITH CONFIDENCE AND DISCRETION AT ALL TIMES.

More info: 0690 11 99 55 or 590 87 20 78 or 1 721 5546532

**TULASI**

9 times more powerful than any other astrologers.

Palm and face reading, horoscope, master, removes black magic, voodoo, evil spirits. Make a right decision at the right time. Solves problems, business, love, husband-wife, kids, court, personal etc.

Please call: +1721 586 6855 or + 590 690 137227

**Club Meeting**

Philipsburg Toastmasters Club meetings at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Meeting Room are held the first, third and fifth Thursdays of every month at 7:15pm.

**Funding Opportunity**

Are you an NGO in need of funding for a social project? Contact 'Samenwerkende Fondsen' (SFC), also known as the Cooperating Foundations for the Dutch Caribbean: email [sintmaarten@samewerkendefondsen.org](mailto:sintmaarten@samewerkendefondsen.org) or call 586-0808. For more information visit: <https://www.samewerkendefondsen.org/en>.

**Karate School**

St. Maarten Kyokushinkai Karate School is starting with new classes for children from 6 years and up. For information call Sensei Mike at 523-6519 or email: [kyokushinkaisintmaarten@outlook.com](mailto:kyokushinkaisintmaarten@outlook.com).

**Sailing Lessons**

St Maarten Yacht Club Sailing School is registering students 8 and up for sailing classes for beginners and advanced sailors. For a detailed schedule and more information, visit [www.smyc.com](http://www.smyc.com) or email [youthsailingsmyc@gmail.com](mailto:youthsailingsmyc@gmail.com) or call 586-0850.

**Dance Classes**

Dance and Arts Dimensions Academy Foundation (DADA) is registering students for the new school year. Classes include the following: Dance: Ballet, Jazz, Liturgical, Dance Fitness, Vocals, Piano and Guitar. Academic remedial classes in Math and English are also preparing to begin for grades 4-6 with prep classes for Exam students. Interested persons can contact the school via email at [dance.da85@gmail.com](mailto:dance.da85@gmail.com) or call 522-5801 or 523-4436 for further information.

**JCI Recruiting**

JCI LIVE Soualiga global leadership and networking organisation is now recruiting members ranging from 18 to 40 years who want to develop their leadership skills in personal growth, business, community and internationalism. The leadership team meets at University of St. Maarten on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. Contact [jcilivesoualiga@gmail.com](mailto:jcilivesoualiga@gmail.com) or call 1-721-588-1833 for additional information.

**Yoga at Library**

Gentle yoga for persons 50+ is back at Philipsburg Jubilee Library, 10:00-11:00am Mondays. For information and registration call Inez at 553-3020

**Club Meeting**

SXM Achievers Toastmasters Club bimonthly meetings at Asha Stevens School (Cay Hill) in the Teachers' Lounge are the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 7:30pm.

**Church Service**

Grace International Baptist Church invites the public to attend Sunday morning worship service at Philipsburg Jubilee Library 10:00-11:30am. For more information call 586-2738 or 554-9590.

**Community Service**

Foundation Judicial Institutes St. Maarten requests that foundations, associations, schools, clubs and other public organisations, including Government organisations, contact the Probation Office to register as community service workplace. For more information call 542-3470 or 542-3477 or e-mail [greta.pantophlet@sjis-sxm.org](mailto:greta.pantophlet@sjis-sxm.org).

**MR. ALPHA**

GUARANTEED MEDIUM AND MARABOUT



Helps efficient and fast, he solves all problems whatever it is, money, family, love, luck, removal of black magic, protection, affection, return of love, trade, luck in all games. If you have problems with your company, your business. Don't wait to call me. I will help you with confidence, even in the most desperate cases.

100% guaranteed fast results.  
Info: 1 721 580 7363 or 011 590 690 380934  
email: [gassamaalphaba@hotmail.fr](mailto:gassamaalphaba@hotmail.fr)  
website: [gassamaalphaba.com](http://gassamaalphaba.com)

**Mr. Sanhati. Medium.**

You've tried everything. He can do a lot for you!

"He will introduce words of love from his heart. Day and night, your image will occupy his mind, he will stir fire of his passion for you to be loved or for love to definitely return."

SENTIMENTAL PLANS:  
Solitude, marital conflicts, emotional success, holds ancient powers and birth gifts, thanks to which he terminates headaches.

PROFESSIONAL PLANS:  
Labor contracts, labor relations, companies in difficulty...

FAMILY PLANS:  
Chance in games, protection with powerful rituals, releases negative vibes...

POSSIBLE BY APPOINTMENT.

721 554 4288  
590 690 066085

**Youth leaders**

Oranje Community School is looking for youth leaders. If you are interested call Olivia Jacobs or Valeria Richards at tel. 586-7948 for an appointment.

**Volunteers Needed**

Community Outreach Mentorship and Empowerment Center (COME) is looking for volunteers in the areas Adult Literacy Teachers, Cooks (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and an all-round person. For more information call 542-2575 or e-mail: [comecenter2012@gmail.com](mailto:comecenter2012@gmail.com)

**Jiu Jitsu, Kickboxing Classes**

BJJ and Muay Thai Kickboxing classes are offered for children and adults at Renzo Gracie St Maarten. Pre-registration required for children's classes. All classes take place at SXM BJJ, 15 Wellington Road, second floor, Cole Bay. For more information call 580-3894 or e-mail [info@sxmbjj.com](mailto:info@sxmbjj.com)

**Steel Pan Classes**

Adults and children 5 and over are advised to register for steel pan afterschool classes at Dow's Musical Foundation. Registration forms can be collected at A.Th. Illidge Road 48, Lower Prince's Quarter, St. Maarten (behind Fingos Paper and Oduber Agencies). For more information call 542-6971.

**Support Group**

Women of Destiny Support Group for single mothers meets on the second Monday of every month at Christian Faith Ministry love hall in Dutch Quarter at 7:30pm (purple church). Tel. 587-6553.

**Dance Classes**

Dance Theater of St. Maarten will be registering students ages 3+ for classes. For detailed schedule and new tuition rates, visit our website [www.dancesxm.com](http://www.dancesxm.com), e-mail us at [info@dancesxm.com](mailto:info@dancesxm.com) or call 520-6914.

**Free HIV testing**

St. Maarten AIDS Foundation is offering free and confidential HIV testing at its office Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm. Results are available in 15 minutes. Call 553-2626 to make an appointment. The office is on the second floor of the Blue Point building in Cole Bay (across from Tropicana Casino). Parking and entrance at the back of the building.

**Volunteers Needed**

St Maarten Red Cross is looking for volunteers. Interested persons can visit its building or call 545-2333 or 586-5330 for more information.

**Positive Thinking**

Brahma Kumaris St. Maarten invites persons to its ongoing free meditation and Positive Thinking courses at Raj Yoga Centre, 16 Front Street. Call 524-2554 or 542-0541 for more information.

**FREE READING  
SISTER JANET  
- AFRICAN HEALER**

Solves impossible problems.  
Answers ALL questions!  
Reveals past, present, future.  
Blocks evil!  
Reunites lovers fast!

CALL: 1-724-624-5735

★ ★ MR. BAH ★ ★ ★ ★

Results in 3 days. Great Spiritual Healer  
Voyant medium from the ancestral tradition.  
Specialist in difficult case even desperate cases.  
Health problems, sexual, impotent, luck in general games, love, return of your loved one.  
Business, spell removal etc.....  
Success in all areas, discretion assured.  
Guaranteed 100%

More info: 1 721 553 3316 or 011 590 690 075189

**FRANCOISE GRAND MEDIUM**

44 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



GOLD MEDALIST, CLAIRVOYANT  
FROM SWITZERLAND

**COMPLETE SESSION \$50  
+ GIFT PROTECTION FOR 2017**

RESOLVES ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS  
LOVE, MONEY, SUCCESS, WORK, HELP.  
WORKS QUICKLY WITH EFFICIENCY

TEL: +001 721 5843012 - TEL: +590 690 767290



# Jim Parsons on Big Bang Theory, Hidden Figures and typecasting

LOS ANGELES--Four-time Emmy winner Jim Parsons will grace the big screen this year in Theodore Melfi's "Hidden Figures," about a trio of mathematicians (Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, and Janelle Monae) working at NASA in the late 1960s.

Parsons, best known for playing Dr. Sheldon Cooper on "the Big Bang Theory," plays another genius in the film -- an engineer who resists working with Henson's character.

You seem to find yourself in great ensembles, from "The Normal Heart" to "The Big Bang Theory" and this. Do you seek that out?

Maybe subconsciously. I do find again and again that the most rewarding things for me is to have strong ensembles. "Hidden Figures" reminds me a lot of doing "Normal Heart," in a way. Part of it is that they're both based on true stories and hugely important moments in human history. And part of it is feeling the job of being an integral part of a machine telling the story in the ensemble. The funny thing about "Hidden Figures" is when we shot it, I was in my world with Taraji and Kevin [Costner]. But when I watch it, I feel just as connected to all the other stories.

Which I think is a testament to Ted.

What was it like to play someone in this time period?

It took me a couple reads to accept what my role in this story was. You really don't want to be on the wrong side of history, even in a movie. And this may sound odd, but one of the ways I felt a better focus on what my role in the story was by looking at Kirsten Dunst's story in her storyline. They're not the same thing, but we serve the same purpose: we're an embodiment of hurdles and attitude of the time.

By reading her storyline and seeing what her role was, I really got it. Plus, it's really fun as an actor to be in conflict -- that's where the joy is, a lot of the time. The scenes that look fun where people are laughing can be fun. But a

fight is just so much more fun to sink your teeth into. Especially with Taraji. It's a fun dance to be a part of.

There are several stories going on and each is interesting. You have four huge storylines; each woman gets a storyline and they as a group get a storyline. I can't believe what a seamless, joyful ride it gets to be. And you reflect on everything that's been covered and go, "Good God how did he do that?"

It really reminds me of exactly why you go to the movies. It feels like a big screen event you want to share with an audience. When I saw it, I just loved it. And towards the last 10 minutes you could feel it building inside ... I went to the bathroom and sobbed. I can't really pinpoint why -- it's not sad.

How did the role come



Actor Jim Parsons arrives at the 22nd Annual Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, California, U.S., December 11, 2016.

your way? Ted directed me in a couple of the Intel commercials. They were looking for a director and they're always good about showing me a list and asking me about my thoughts. My manager said, "It has to be Ted Melfi. He's a brilliant director, he's doing good things, and we need to get you together." And sure enough, a couple months

later, Ted sent the script and wanted me to play the part. I was like, "Hell yes!"

Is it nice to be associated with someone so smart?

If I'm recognized, people are very polite. They'll call out to me: "Sheldon!" But I'm more amazed when people know my name, when I hear "Jim." Even at this late stage in the game, I'm not used to it, I always wonder how I know them. Because peo-

ple are so sweet and I'm only that sweet to people I've met before!

Have you ever wanted to play a dumb person?

Yes! I used to get cast frequently as dumb people. Or rather, they were either not bright or had a certain idiot savant quality about them. There is great joy in playing someone who doesn't know what the hell is happening.

# Beckham proud of son's charity work

NEW YORK--Former England soccer captain David Beckham said he was surprised and proud that his 11-year-old son, Cruz, had taken it upon himself to raise money for charity by releasing a Christmas

single.

Cruz Beckham followed in the musical footsteps of his mum, fashion designer and former Spice Girl Victoria, by releasing "If Everyday Was Christmas" last week, with all proceeds from the single going to British children's charity, Make Some Noise.

"He's been listening to his dad and his mum and saying how important it is to help others," David Beckham, a United Nations Children's Fund (UNI-

CEF) ambassador, said in New York on Monday at a 70th anniversary celebration for the charity. "I was quite amazed by that because he's 11 years old and to realise how important it is to give back at that age is something special."

David Beckham was joined at the UNICEF celebration, held at the United Nations headquarters, by actors Jackie Chan, Orlando Bloom and Priyanka Chopra.



BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV  
Channel 122 SXM Cable  
Channel 23 WTN

### Wednesday, December 14

12:00pm	VRT Journaal
12:30pm	Klonen: Wens of Waanzin
1:20pm	Ali B op Volle Toeren
1:55pm	2 voor 12
2:35pm	BinnensteBuiten
3:00pm	NOS Journaal
3:05pm	Sesamstraat
3:20pm	Sesamstraat 10 voor...
3:30pm	Het Klokhuis
3:45pm	NOS Jeugdjournaal
3:55pm	Voetbalmeisjes
4:20pm	Blokken
4:45pm	Thuis
5:10pm	Dagelijkse kost Kerst aan kust
5:30pm	EenVandaag
5:55pm	NOS Sportjournaal
6:00pm	VRT Journaal
6:45pm	De Wereld Draait Door
7:35pm	NOS Journaal
8:00pm	Weerbericht Europa/Afrika
8:05pm	De Rekenkamer
8:30pm	Hoe word ik 100
9:20pm	De Noodcentrale
10:00pm	Nieuwsuur
10:45pm	Weerbericht Amerika/Caribiën
10:50pm	Paauw
11:45pm	Iedereen beroemd



TV 15 (local)  
Channel 115 SXM Cable

### Wednesday, December 14

8:00am	SXM Daily News (rr)
8:30am	Caribbean Medical
9:00am	Caribbean Newsline
9:30am	Caribbean Workout
10:00am	Music Videos
5:00pm	Music Videos
5:30pm	Caribbean Newsline
6:00pm	TBA
6:30pm	21 <sup>st</sup> Century
7:00pm	Dcomm
7:30pm	SXM Daily News
8:00pm	Speaking of Everything
8:30pm	Prime Time with Beverly Hyman
9:00pm	Music Videos
10:00pm	Music Videos/Caribbean Lottery
10:30pm	Live Up the Show "HIV"
11:00pm	SXM Daily News (r)
11:30pm	Caribbean Newsline



TV-CARIB (local)  
Channel 10 WTN

### Wednesday, December 14

6:30am	Facing the Day
7:00am	TV-Carib Informer (r)
7:40am	Noticias en Español (r)
12:05pm	Viewpoint (PJD2)
Program Rotation	
5:00pm	Playtime
6:40pm	DCOMM
7:00pm	Strictly Business
7:30pm	A Betta Place
8:00pm	TV-CARIB Informer
8:40pm	Movie/Special Program
9:00pm	Live Lottery Drawings
10:00pm	Noticias en Español
10:20pm	Spanish Programs/Movie



TeleCuraçao  
Channel 130 SXM Cable  
Channel 8 WTN

### Wednesday, December 14

6:00am	Music Videos
6:30am	Môru Bon Dia
9:30am	Ban Hals a Standarte
10:00am	Gostoso - TCFM
11:00am	Dun'e un Chêns
12:00pm	Cafe CNN
12:30pm	Notisia di Mèrdia
1:00pm	Bo Tra'i Mèrdia
4:00pm	Overdrive - TCFM
5:00pm	Pidi Boka
6:00pm	Bonochi Kòrsou
7:00pm	TeleDeporte
7:30pm	Fashionista
8:00pm	TeleNotisia
8:45pm	Extra Plus
9:00pm	Wega di Number Kòrsou
9:10pm	Partispashon di Morto
9:15pm	Pagina Sosial
9:30pm	Studio 24/Paranda Fin di Aña
11:00pm	TeleNotisia (r)

## JK Rowling illustrated manuscript sells for \$467,000 at London auction

LONDON--A rare book bound in brown Morocco leather and adorned with silver, was presented to editor Barry Cunningham, who published Rowling's spellbinding debut, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", and carries a personal dedication from her.

"The Tales of Beedle the Bard" is one of six copies that Rowling made as presents to those who helped bring her magical world of wizards and witches to life.

The copy sold on Tuesday,

bound in brown Morocco leather and adorned with silver, was presented to editor Barry Cunningham, who published Rowling's spellbinding debut, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", and carries a personal dedication from her.

The volume of five wizarding fairy tales - left to Hermione Granger by Albus Dumbledore in "Harry Potter and the Deathly

Hallows" - had a price estimate of 300,000-500,000 pounds (\$380,000-634,000). Sotheby's auction house said in a statement that it had been sold for 368,750 pounds (\$467,400) to an anonymous telephone bidder.

A seventh copy, made for an auction in 2007 to raise money for the author's charity, Lumos, raised 1.95 million pounds.



Bill Cosby (C), enters a courtroom for a hearing where his lawyers are expected to renew their battle with prosecutors over whether more than a dozen female accusers can testify at his criminal sexual trial next year, in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday.

## Cosby's lawyers, prosecutors clash in court over accusers

NORRISTOWN, Pennsylvania--Lawyers for Bill Cosby and Pennsylvania prosecutors clashed angrily in court on Tuesday over whether the defense team was deliberately trying to intimidate women who have accused the entertainer of sexual assault.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele contended defense attorneys were trying to "manipulate" Cosby's upcoming criminal trial by publicly naming the 13 accusers prosecutors want to call to prove Cosby was a serial abuser of women.

Cosby's reputation as a family-friendly entertainer has suffered from allegations by about 50 women that he sexually assaulted them in a series of alleged attacks dating back decades. The actor, 79, only faces criminal charges in the Pennsylvania case involving Andrea Constand, a former basketball coach at his alma mater. Cosby has denied wrongdoing.

At Tuesday's hearing,

Steele noted that a screen set up to show a defense presentation was angled toward an audience that included a sizable number of journalists. "They want to stick them up on a PowerPoint so everyone in here can see!" Steele said.

Defense attorney Brian McMonagle accused Steele of positioning the screen before pointing out that 11 of the women have already publicly identified themselves.

Judge Steven O'Neill interrupted the shouting match, saying that a court official had put up the screen. "You don't want to get involved with the sheriffs here, if you two can't control yourselves," O'Neill said.

Constand has accused Cosby of giving her pills and wine at his home in 2004 before sexually assaulting her. If prosecutors are successful in persuading the judge to allow the 13 alleged victims, Cosby would face a parade of witnesses portraying him as a serial predator.

Typically, prosecutors cannot introduce evidence of unrelated "prior bad acts." But Pennsylvania law allows it if the previous instances show a clear pattern of behaviour.

"The defendant has engaged over the course of decades in a signature pattern of nonconsensual sexual assaults on young women," Steele said. O'Neill has already ruled prosecutors can use sworn testimony Cosby delivered in 2005 in which he said he gave women Quaaludes before engaging in consensual sexual acts.

Cosby, who according to his lawyers is blind, appeared to pay close attention. When O'Neill wondered when Cosby's birthday was, he answered in a voice that carried through the courtroom: "1937, July 12."

Later, Steele described an alleged assault at the Drake Hotel, saying he believed the hotel was located in New York. "No, the Drake is in Chicago," Cosby announced.



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and musician Kanye West pose for media at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York City, U.S., on Tuesday.

## Kanye West meets with Trump to discuss 'multicultural issues'

NEW YORK--Kanye West met Republican President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday to discuss what he said were "multicultural issues" including bullying, education and violence.

West's meeting at Manhattan's Trump Tower sent social media into a frenzy and fueled speculation about a possible performance at Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration or an informal administration role for the rapper. The chairman of the Presidential Inauguration Committee, Tom Barrack, told CNN in an interview later on Tuesday that West would not be performing at the inauguration.

West, 39, said on Twitter he had wanted to meet Trump "to discuss multicultural issues."

"These issues included bullying, supporting teachers, modernizing curriculums, and violence in Chicago," tweeted the singer who was raised in Chicago.

"I feel it is important to have a direct line of communication with our future President if we truly want change."

The 15-minute meeting was the first major outing by West and generated his first tweets since he was released on Nov. 30 after a week in a Los Angeles psychiatric hospital with an unexplained condition. It quickly became the top trending topic on Twitter.

The "Jesus Walks" singer again teased the prospect of running for president himself, adding a last tweet that said simply #2024. Last year, West declared he was planning to run in 2020, but has given no details.

Asked about the purpose of the meeting, Trump told reporters afterward: "Friends, just friends. He's a good man. Long time. Friends for a long time."

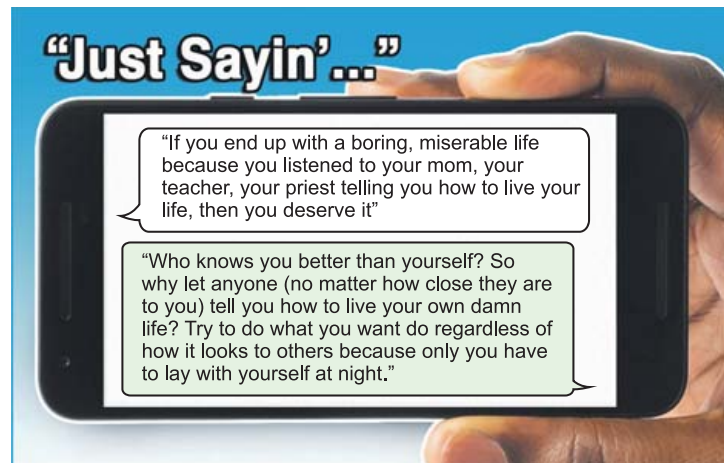
Trump added that the two had "discussed life."

West, sporting a new

blond hairdo, was without his wife, reality television star Kim Kardashian. He made headlines in November when he was booted at a concert for declaring his support for Trump, although he said he had not voted in the Nov. 8 presidential election.

E! News, whose E! network broadcasts reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," said earlier that Trump reached out to West. "Trump thinks he's a great role model when it comes to business," E! quoted a source close to the rapper as saying.

Music stars including Beyonce, Katy Perry and Bruce Springsteen backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in the election and no celebrities have yet been announced as taking part in the inauguration, although country singer Garth Brooks is in discussions to perform.



## Chelsea yet to open contract talks with captain Terry

ENGLAND-- Chelsea are yet to open talks over a possible contract extension for club captain John Terry whose current deal expires at the end of the season.

Speculation over Terry's future overshadowed last season at Chelsea as his contract entered its final months before he signed a one-year extension and British media reported that the 36-year-old is unlikely to be offered a new deal this time.

"John is our captain and I think he is doing a great job when he plays. Now he is not playing but he is helping me a lot in the changing room to send the right message to the players," manager Antonio Conte told reporters on Tuesday.

"I hope to have him

available to play, but it's also important to have him in this role... John loves this club. I think it is important now to be focused on the moment and not think about the future."

Terry has not started a Premier League match since September due to injury and is not expected to return until next month. Without him Chelsea have conceded only two goals in a nine-game winning run which has opened a three-point gap at the top of the table.

"It's a little early in the season for stories like this to come out," the club's head of communications Steve Atkins said.

"It's the kind of discussion that we have with players in the last year of

their contract, but much later in the season," he added.

"That discussion has not taken place between John and the club. It's something that will be discussed later in the season, not for now."

Conte rejected reports that midfielder Cesc Fabregas could be sold in January.

"In football, in my experience, it's very difficult to guarantee something. But, in my opinion, Cesc is an important player for us," the Italian said ahead of Wednesday's trip to bottom club Sunderland.

"Cesc is always a good choice for me and, I repeat, he is an important player and he is in the Chelsea squad. This is the reality."



Huge crowds watched the action behind barriers on the side of the RN7 bypass in Grand Case. (Photo Hugo Mercader).

## Motorbike drag racing drew 5 to 6,000 spectators Saturday

MARIGOT—President of Association Moto Action du Nord (AMAN) Miguel Mingau said Tuesday he was very satisfied with the outcome of the drag racing event held Saturday in Grand Case and is already planning the next event for 2017 in the same location.

30 motorbike riders from Guadeloupe, St. Martin and Martinique gathered for the event that was held at night on the RN7 bypass. It was the first event to be organised since 2010. In all six events have been organised to date.

"We would have had more participants but 15 motorbikes got stuck in Guadeloupe because of boat transport problems and had to miss it," he disclosed. "We knew we were going to get a good crowd of spectators but the five to six thousand spectators we estimated was much more than we were expecting."

"We had no accidents or injuries with the motorbikes. Only an official car caught fire because its fuel line broke but the fire was put out in 11 seconds. Fire extinguishers have to be placed at regular intervals along the course."

Mingau added the event conformed to all the mandatory requirements to hold such an event such as security, spectator barriers, fire precautions, ambulance etc. The Gendarmerie and Police were monitoring the event. Temporary lighting was also installed by the organisers.

"The motorbikes all had to be inspected and the riders could not race unless they wore protective clothing, helmets and gloves."

The fastest run of the night went to Victor "Titi"



Two riders accelerate away during a heat at the SXM Moto Drag Racing event held in Grand Case Saturday night. (Photo Hugo Mercader).

Hodge from French Quarter, completing the 1.8 mile (200 metres) course in 6 seconds 28.

The best qualifying time went to Sebastien Morvan, also from French Quarter,

with a time of 6 seconds 40. One of the participants was Jean-Sebastien Hamlet, President of Union for Democracy's (UD) youth wing. It was not known how he placed.



Stephan Seymour crosses the finish line to win the 2016 Greenhouse to Greenhouse Run on Sunday.

## Tri Academie's Stephan Seymour wins Greenhouse to Greenhouse Run

SIMPSON BAY—SXM Tri Academie's Stephan Seymour won the 2016 Greenhouse to Greenhouse Run on Sunday in 35:56, close to a minute slower than Christophe Lannoy's winning time in 2015.

The record time for this race is 31:30 set in 2013 and still held by Omarco Robinson.

Second to cross the finish line in Pelican on Sunday was Jeanot Govin (38:45) and third Shannon Richardson (39:00). Kai Piscione shot through the finish line to take fourth overall (39:23) and top ju-

nior. Dominique Le Peltier was fifth (40:29).

Patricia Nolf was first female runner to finish in 43:11.

The walk category was won by Marlon Hart (1:04:02), second place to Jean Pierre Seymour (1:13:21) and third place Veronique Boucoud (1:13:22).

A side show to the run is the kayak category where kayakers attempt to beat the first runner to the finish line, departing from Great Bay beach close to the Greenhouse.

It hasn't happened yet but Stuart Knaggs was close

last year, just behind the first runner.

This year choppy, offshore wind conditions made for a slower paddle. According to the results Stuart won the 8.75K kayak distance in 43:10 followed by Juan Pablo Piscione in 45:07.

The other three kayakers did a slightly shorter course. Sebastien Hoender-vangers was third (48:10), Thierry Personne fourth (48:45) and Mary Wrigley fifth (49:18).

The Greenhouse Run attracted 71 participants this year.

## Rio darling Oleksiak named Canada's athlete of the year

TORONTO-- Olympic swimming sensation Penny Oleksiak won the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete of the year on Tuesday, capping off a remarkable year in which the 16-year-old won four medals at the Rio Games.

Oleksiak, the youngest and 74th recipient of the award, burst onto the scene in Rio where she became the first Canadian to win four medals at a Summer Games, including gold in the marquee 100 metres freestyle.

She also took a silver in the 100m butterfly and bronze from two relays. Oleksiak beat out a strong

field for the prestigious award that included hockey player Sidney Crosby, sprinter Andre De Grasse and golf's Brooke Henderson.

The Lou Marsh Trophy, named after a former Toronto Star sports editor, is voted on by a panel of Canadian journalists.

Past winners include Hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky, Masters champion Mike Weir, Formula 1 champion Jacques Villeneuve, NBA most valuable player Steve Nash and drug-tainted sprinter Ben Johnson.

# Atletico keeper Oblak to undergo shoulder surgery

MADRID- - Atletico Madrid goalkeeper Jan Oblak will undergo shoulder surgery later this week, the La Liga club said on Tuesday.

The Slovenian international dislocated his left shoulder during Atletico Madrid's 3-0 defeat at Villarreal on Monday and was taken to hospital to have it set.

"Jan Oblak underwent radiology tests and an MRI today in the Fremap Majadahonda clinic which have confirmed he is suffering from Bankart lesion, an injury of the glenoid labrum of the shoulder due to dislocation," Atletico said in a statement.

"He will have to undergo surgery in the coming days."

Oblak was injured attempting to prevent Jonathan dos Santos from scoring Villarreal's second goal and was replaced in the 40th minute by Miguel Angel Moya.

No time frame has been given for the 23-year-old's return but Spanish media reported that Oblak will

be sidelined for at least three months.

Oblak has started 15 La Liga games this season and has kept seven clean sheets.

Sixth-paced Atletico, who have won just two of their last seven league games, are 12 points adrift of leaders Real Madrid and host Las Palmas on Saturday.

Atletico were drawn against Bayer Leverkusen in the last 16 of the Champions League with the first leg on Feb. 21.



Double Trouble's Cailan Fleming, Nicholas Carbon and Deanthony Niles display the Anguilla flag as winners in Les Minimes category. Looking on is VCG President St. Elmo Arnell.

# St. Martin Cycling Committee presents prizes for the 2016 Youth Challenge

MARIGOT—The St. Martin Territorial Cycling Committee board presented prizes on Sunday to all the category winners in the 2016 Youth Challenge during a ceremony at Chez Clement's in Baie Nettle. It was also an opportunity to reveal the 2017 calendar of races.

The Youth Challenge consisted of ten races throughout the year where young riders could accumulate points.



Jahkim Carty (center) was first in Les Pupilles, joined here by Shaquill Francillette Carbon and Demetri Niles. Territorial Councillor Alain Gros Desormeaux presented their prizes.

The ceremony was hosted by Committee President Daniel Remi. Elected officials were present to assist in presenting the cash prizes, namely General Secretary of the Prefecture Thierry Mahler, Vice President of the Collectivité Wendel Cocks, and Territorial Councillor for Sports Alain Gros-Desormeaux.

Also assisting were Director of Service Jeunesse Priscilla Bade, Director of Sports Charles Henri Palvaire, President of the Grand Case VCG Club, St. Elmo Arnell, a representative from Union for Democracy (taking the place of Daniel Gibbs) and Commissaire Joanne Lewest.

Winners in each of the categories were as follows: Pre- License 1. Ashton Benitez (VCG), 2.Kelan Edwards Lewest (Univiers Plus/ASM) and 3. Ryan Lake (ASM); Les Poussins

1. Kendjay Gervais (ASM), equal ranking and equal prize money, Trinity Romney (Team Cyclone), Tri-anna Frossard (ASM) and Chloe Cayaci. Their prizes were presented by Priscilla Bade.

The Most Disciplined cyclist prize in the Youth Challenge went to Kenrick Cozier from ASM Club. Most Combative rider went to VCG's Matheo Gosse.

The elected officials took it in turns to congratulate all the young riders and praised the Cycling Committee for the great work it is doing to develop youth cycling in St. Martin. Parents were also encouraged to support their children as much as possible and attend the races.

Les Cadets 1. Yehudi Destouches (ASM), 2. Remi Arrondel (ASM), 3.Kianny Noel (ASM). Three young female cyclists were also presented with



St. Dominic and Milton Peters College will vie for the 2016 High School Soccer Competition Championship at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex Saturday. Action begins at 3:00pm with the game for third place in the boy's division kicks off between Learning Unlimited and Caribbean International Academy. LU and CIA will also play for the third in the girl's division as will St. Dominic and Milton Peters College compete for the top spot in both boy's and girl's group. The competition was organized by the Oualichi Women's Soccer Association and the St. Maarten Soccer Association.

# Spurs may need to alter style to halt slump, says Pochettino

ENGLAND-- Tottenham Hotspur may need to find different ways to unlock the defences if they are to reignite their Premier League title bid, manager Mauricio Pochettino said on Tuesday.

Spurs have failed to build on a strong start to the campaign, winning three of their last 13 games to exit the Champions League and slip to fifth in the table, 10 points behind leaders Chelsea after 15 matches.

"Until now we have used three different formations, three different set-ups, but yes, we need to find different ways to play," Pochettino told reporters.

"It may be a possibil-

ity that the expectation is higher. We played in different competitions like the Champions League and it was not possible to rotate." Leading striker Harry Kane recently suggested that opponents have worked out how to play against Tottenham, who lost 1-0 at Manchester United on Sunday, but Pochettino rejected the idea that his team have regressed this season.

"Some were injured like Harry Kane or Toby Alderweireld and now Mousa Dembele, so it was impossible to be fresh for the Premier League," the Argentine said.

"But today after 15 games we have 27 points, last season after 15 games, if my memory is good, 26 points. We have one point more than last season."

Spurs host 19th-placed Hull City on Wednesday and will be without injured midfielders Dembele and Erik Lamela and striker Vincent Janssen.

ExperienceStMaarten.com

YOUR GUIDE TO DINING

Need Books? Want to advertise? Contact Christian Smith, 5220231  
For Information: christiansmith@hotmail.com

**RADIO TRANSAT**

105.9FM / 93.7FM

SAINT MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN

# Sunderland's Defoe relishing the pressure of relegation scrap

LONDON - Sunderland striker Jermain Defoe is revelling in the pressure that comes from being the man whose goals are expected to save David Moyes' side from relegation.

Sunderland's plight is looking increasingly bleak with the club bottom of the Premier League table with 11 points from 15 matches.

Yet they have a player in Defoe who could fire them to safety and the 34-year-old is not fazed by suggestions that the fate of the north east club's relegation battle is in his hands.

"Yes it is pressure but I love it," Defoe, who has already scored eight times in the league this season, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"If people expect me to score goals then I'll do that. I'll do whatever it takes

to make sure this football club remains in the Premier League. I'll try my best. Once I go on the pitch, it's down to me, and if I am on it, then I control everything."

Sunderland host league leaders Chelsea on Wednesday as they look to rebound from last weekend's 3-0 away defeat to relegation rivals Swansea City that dropped them back to the foot of the table.

In stark contrast, Antonio Conte's Chelsea sit three points clear at the top and are chasing their 10th league win in a row.

Defoe, whose former clubs include Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United, believes Sunderland's underdog status could allow them play with a dangerous level of freedom.

"It's always a tricky game

playing against a team with that 'we've-got-nothing-to-lose' mentality," explained Defoe, who joined Sunderland in January 2015 after a short stint in the MLS with Toronto FC.

"We can go out there, express ourselves and enjoy the game. We'll be solid and compact. The pressure is on Chelsea."

Defoe, who is the only player to have scored against Chelsea for four different Premier League clubs (West Ham, Tottenham, Portsmouth and Sunderland) added: "When people expect you to lose the game you might go on and knick it. That would be great for us because we need the points at the minute."

Chelsea striker Diego Costa has made an electric start to the season and has already netted 12 times in 15 league appearances and Defoe has been impressed

with the Spain striker's versatility in front of goal.

"He does everything; he runs in behind, he comes short, he's strong and he can head it," Defoe said.

"He has been bullying defenders, to be honest. But if we can stop their best players from playing and really make it difficult for them then anything can happen."

Sunderland are unbeaten at home since the end of October and Defoe has urged his team mates to turn the Stadium of Light into a fortress.

"When you're playing there and you're winning, there can't be many places in the country that are better in terms of atmosphere. It's an amazing place to play football," he said.

"We have to make the home games count. When teams come to the Stadium of Light they need to know it is going to be difficult."



Sunderland's Jermain Defoe shoots at goal during a Premier League match.

## FA Cup third round draw

Ipswich Town	v Lincoln City
Barrow	v Rochdale
Manchester United	v Reading
Hull City	v Swansea City
Sunderland	v Burnley
Queens Park Rangers	v Blackburn Rovers
Millwall	v Bournemouth
West Ham United	v Manchester City
Brighton & Hove Albion	v MK Dons
Blackpool	v Barnsley
Wigan Athletic	v Nottingham Forest
Birmingham City	v Newcastle United
Chelsea	v Notts County/Peterborough United
Middlesbrough	v Sheffield Wednesday
West Brom Albion	v Derby County
Everton	v Leicester City
Liverpool	v Newport County/Plymouth Argyle
Wycombe Wanderers	v Stourbridge
Watford	v Burton Albion
Preston North End	v Arsenal
Cardiff City	v Fulham
Stoke City	v Wolverhampton Wanderers
Cambridge United	v Leeds United
Bristol City	v Fleetwood Town
Huddersfield Town	v Port Vale
Tottenham Hotspur	v Aston Villa
Brentford	v Eastleigh
Bolton Wanderers	v Crystal Palace
Norwich City	v Southampton
Sutton United	v AFC Wimbledon
Accrington Stanley	v Luton Town
Rotherham United	v Oxford United

# National Football League roundup

NEW YORK-- Jim Harbaugh returning to the NFL to coach the Los Angeles Rams is reportedly a "very real" possibility.

MMOB.com's Albert Breer told Fox Sports Radio's Colin Cowherd that a Harbaugh return could be in the works.

"By the way, Albert Breer on the way out said that Jim Harbaugh to the Rams rumor is a very real thing," Cowherd said following his interview with Breer, via CBSSports.com.

Harbaugh, currently the coach at Michigan, spent four seasons coaching the San Francisco 49ers from 2011-2014.

Harbaugh told his Michigan players earlier this week that rumors about his possible re-

turn to the NFL were "lies made up by our enemies," according to ESPN.

## London

For the 11th consecutive regular season games in London. The league has played 17 games in the British capital dating back to 2007, including three in 2016.

The 2017 schedule features four games between the Baltimore Ravens and Jacksonville Jaguars (Sept. 24 or Oct. 1), the New Orleans Saints and Miami Dolphins (Sept. 24/Oct. 1), the Minnesota Vikings and Cleveland Browns (Oct. 22/Oct. 29), and the Arizona Cardinals and Los Angeles Rams (Oct. 22/Oct. 29).

## Dolphins

Miami Dolphins Pro Bowl center Mike Pouncey was placed on injured reserve due to a left hip injury, the team announced.

Miami filled the roster opening by signing journeyman quarterback T.J. Yates.

## Cowboys

The Dallas Cowboys activated running back Darren McFadden.

McFadden, 29, rushed for 1,089 yards last season, the fourth-best total in the NFL, and was named the Cowboys' offensive MVP. However, he has been out since fracturing

his elbow in an off-the-field incident in May.

## Ravens

The Baltimore Ravens released return specialist Devin Hester one day after the veteran struggled during Monday night's loss to the New England Patriots.

The 34-year-old Hester is considered one of the top returners in NFL history and holds the league record of 19 return scores. He has returned 14 punts for touchdowns and five kickoffs for scores.

Konrad Reuland, who played three NFL seasons with the New York Jets and Baltimore Ravens, died at the age of 29 after suffering a brain aneurysm, Ravens coach John Harbaugh announced Monday night.

Reuland suffered the aneurysm on Nov. 28 and underwent surgery the next day.

## Rams

Former Los Angeles Rams coach Jeff Fisher thanked his former employers one day after being fired with three games remaining in the 2016 season.

"First and foremost, I want to thank (owner) Stan Kroenke for the opportunity to be part of this organization the last four and a half years," Fisher said in a statement. "I want to thank the entire football staff as it has been a privilege to work with each one of them

day in and day out. I especially want to thank all of the players. They are a great group of men that I respect, and that I will greatly miss. My hope is that each one of the players experience great success in the future."

## Bengals

The Cincinnati Bengals released longtime kicker Mike Nugent two days after he missed his sixth extra point of the season.

Nugent joined the Bengals in 2010 and set franchise records for points (132) and field goals (33) in 2011.

## Washington

Washington signed free-agent linebacker Nick Moody and placed defensive end Anthony Lanier II on the injured reserve list, the team announced.

Moody has played in 23 NFL games, including two starts, over three seasons with the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks from 2013 through 2015.

## Colts

The Indianapolis Colts placed cornerback Patrick Robinson on the injured reserve list because of a groin injury, the team announced.

Robinson played in seven games, including six starts, this season, and recorded 26 tackles (20 solo), five passes defensed and one forced fumble.

## REPAIRS



We Repair  
Power Tools

ELECTEC  
ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC SERVICES

+1 721 544-2051 www.electec.info email: sales@electec.info  
29 Wellington Road, Cole Bay

# Williams lifts Everton as Arsenal blow chance



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud in action with Everton's Phil Jagielka during their Premier League match at Goodison Park. Everton won 2-1.

Arsenal to attack.

Francis Coquelin was brought down on the edge of the area and Sanchez stepped up to hit a tame free kick that looked to be covered by Maarten Stekelenburg until it deflected off Williams and beat the keeper's outstretched hand.

The goal put Sanchez joint top of the league's scoring charts with Chelsea's Diego Costa.

It also seemed to spark life into the hosts who gradually came out of their shells with Aaron Lennon slicing an effort wide before Coleman levelled with a glancing header from Leighton Baines' cross.

Mesut Ozil blasted a good chance over for Arsenal at the start of the second half but Everton were on top and pushing for the winner when Williams sent Goodison Park wild.

In a frenetic finale, Everton defender Phil Jagielka was sent off for a second booking in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Arsenal also had two efforts cleared off the line and somehow prevented the home team grabbing a third goal when keeper Petr Cech was caught upfield.

ENGLAND-- Ashley Williams powered home a towering header in the 86th minute as Everton fought back to claim a 2-1 win over Arsenal as the title hopefuls blew the chance to return to the Premier League summit on Tuesday.

It was the first league defeat for Arsene Wenger's men since they lost to Liverpool on the opening day of the season and their first on the road since March.

More importantly, it handed Chelsea the chance to go six points clear at the top when they visit bottom club Sunderland on Wednesday.

It looked like business as usual for the visitors, who have been scoring freely in recent weeks, when Alexis Sanchez netted his 12th league goal of the season with a deflected free kick after 20 minutes.

Everton though warmed to the task, levelling through Seamus Coleman's header a minute before halftime.

With the seconds ticking away towards the end, Williams rose high to nod Ross Barkley's corner into the net for his first Everton goal, securing the team's first win since the end of October.

It moved Everton up to seventh in the table and offered some cheer to manager Ronald Koeman. "We showed unbelievable

spirit to come back and we deserved the win," the Dutchman told BT Sport.

Everton struggled for confidence in the early stages as they retreated, inviting

# If you don't win you're in trouble, says Guardiola

ENGLAND-- Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola knows that if he fails to turn around his team's flagging results he could face the sack but the Spaniard is determined to stick with his style of play.

City made a flying start under him, winning their first 10 games in all competitions. However, they have won four in 15 since and are fourth in the Premier League, seven points behind leaders Chelsea.

"Football does not exist as a long project," Guardiola told reporters on Tuesday. "You have to win immediately and if you don't win, you are in trouble. The boss and the chairman are going to decide.

"I feel like they trust me but the reality is that you have to win. Anything can happen. Our position depends on the results.

"When I came here I knew I had to win immediately. It is unfair in many cases but the big companies and the

big businesses in the world, if something doesn't work, you have to find a solution," said Guardiola.

"Normally the guy who has to go is the guy who has to help the players reach the best level."

Guardiola made it clear he has no intention of quitting City after taking over at the start of the season from Chilean Manuel Pellegrini.

"I'm not leaving ... I achieved what I achieved because I am a fighter," said the Spaniard who won 21 trophies in seven years as manager at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

Guardiola also launched a staunch defence of his preferred possession-based style of play, saying the team's poor form would not force him to compromise.

"No way. We are going to play the way I feel. I believe in the way I like to play," he said ahead of Wednesday's league game at home to Watford.

"Of course I have to adapt



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

# Taxing questions spoil Ballon d'Or for Ronaldo

MADRID-- Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo feels unable to celebrate his fourth Ballon d'Or award as much as his previous triumphs due to recent allegations of tax evasion.

The European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) media consortium reported in early December that Ronaldo, and several other clients of soccer agency Gestifute, had used tax havens to handle tens of mil-

lions of euros in earnings. Gestifute denied the accusations last week.

Ronaldo, who led Portugal to the Euro 2016 title in July after helping Real Madrid clinch the Champions League, expressed his disappointment at the timing of the charges against him.

"Of course it (allegations) has spoiled it a little bit. I would be lying if I said it hadn't. I'm not a hypocrite," he told soccer maga-

zine France Football. "I wasn't pleased. The whole process in itself is hard and not only for me, but also for the people alongside me: my family, my son, all those who work with me.

"All that irritates me because I try to do things correctly, be transparent."

In their denial, Gestifute stated that Ronaldo, who moved to Real Madrid from Manchester United in 2009, is compliant with his tax obligations in Spain.

The 31-year-old Ronaldo, who beat Barcelona forward Lionel Messi and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann to world football's top individual prize for 2016 at a glitzy ceremony on Monday, insists he has nothing to hide.

"You just have to type 'Cristiano Ronaldo' on the Internet and you know everything about me," the Portugal captain said. "I don't have any reason to lie.

"What came out troubles me. Because it's not true. The lie is troubling. I have done things correctly.

"There are a lot of innocent people in prison. And I feel a little bit like that. You know you have done nothing wrong, and they say you have done something reprehensible. No one likes that.

"But the truth always comes out. Sooner or later." Ronaldo, who previously won the Ballon d'Or in 2008, 2013 and 2014, is currently with Real Madrid in Japan preparing for Thursday's Club World Cup semi-final against Mexican side Club America.

# Chelsea and City fined for fracas

LONDON-- Chelsea and Manchester City have been fined 100,000 pounds (\$126,770) and 35,000 pounds respectively for failing to control their players during a Premier League encounter on Dec. 3, the FA said on Tuesday.

City striker Sergio Aguero's reckless tackle on Chelsea defender David Luiz in stoppage time sparked a melee at the Etihad Stadium, with players and coaching staff from both teams involved in ugly scenes.

Aguero and team mate Fernandinho were sent off and are serving four and three-game bans respectively.

City were beaten 4-2 by champions Leicester City on Saturday and against Watford will bid to avoid losing back-to-back league games for the first time this season.

"The two clubs were charged for failing to ensure their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion and/or refrained from provocative behaviour," the FA said in a statement.

League leaders Chelsea, who have claimed nine successive victories to top the table by three points from Arsenal, won the game 3-1.

Their fine is heavier than City's because of previous disciplinary indiscretions.

City have fallen off the pace in recent weeks and are seven points adrift of Chelsea in fourth place following Saturday's 4-2 defeat at champions Leicester City.

# SPORTS ARENA

## Lively Bournemouth send Leicester into doldrums

ENGLAND-- English champions Leicester City failed to continue their mini-revival after a clinical finish by Bournemouth's Marc Pugh condemned them to a 1-0 away defeat in a scrappy Premier League clash on Tuesday.

The outcome kept 14th-placed Leicester close to the relegation zone on 16 points, four above the bottom three who play their games in hand on Wednesday, and was a setback after

Saturday's 4-2 home win over fourth-placed Manchester City.

Bournemouth, who kept the visitors on the back foot for much of the contest, grabbed a 34th-minute winner when Pugh swept in a rebound from 13 metres after Leicester keeper Ron-Robert Zieler did well to parry a close range shot by Benik Afobe.

Leicester had missed an early chance in the seventh minute when striker Jamie

Vardy, who scored a hat-trick against City, rounded keeper Artur Boruc with a heavy first touch and saw his harmless shot from a tight angle blocked by a defender.

Boruc came to the hosts' rescue in the 90th minute when he blocked a close-range shot by substitute Leonardo Ulloa to help seal the points as Bournemouth moved up to eighth on 21 points.



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy in action with Bournemouth's Simon Francis during their Premier League match at Vitality Stadium.



Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) and Memphis Grizzlies guard Andrew Harrison (5) reach for the ball in the first quarter at Quicken Loans Arena in Ohio. Cavaliers won 103-86. In other action Magic beat Hawks 131-120. (David Richard-USA TODAY Sports.)

## Woods to play 2017 Tour event at Riviera

CALIFORNIA-- Tiger Woods, who has not competed on the PGA Tour since August 2015, will return to the U.S. circuit at next year's Genesis Open in Pacific Palisades, California, the former world number one announced on Tuesday.

Woods, who competed earlier this month at the limited-field Hero World Challenge after a lengthy absence caused by chronic back problems, is a native of California and will be teeing it up in the event that marked his PGA Tour debut in 1992.

The Genesis Open, which will be played at Riviera Country Club from Feb. 13-19, benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation.

"I'm very excited to come back to Riviera and compete in the Genesis Open," Woods, a 14-time major champion, said in a statement. "This is where it all started for me. It was my first PGA Tour event, I was 16 years old, I weighed about 105 pounds, and it was a life-changing moment for me."

Woods, the greatest player of his generation and arguably of all time, made his

PGA Tour debut at Riviera at the age of 16. Now aged 40, he has not competed in the Los Angeles event since 2006 when he withdrew after the second round.

Woods has not won a tournament anywhere since 2013 and his title drought in the major championships dates back to 2008.

After being sidelined for nearly 16 months due to a chronic back injury, he returned to competition this month at the Hero World Challenge which he hosts in the Bahamas and produced mixed form to finish 15th in an elite field of 17.

## Russia loses 2017 world championships

ZURICH - The doping scandal that has engulfed Russian sport claimed another casualty on Tuesday when the 2017 bobsleigh and skeleton world championships were taken away from Sochi amid the growing threat of a boycott.

Latvia had already pulled out of the Feb. 13-26 event following last week's publication of the second part of the McLaren Report into Russian doping which revealed an institutional conspiracy to conceal positive tests.

South Korea, hosts of the 2018 Winter Olympics, and skeleton athletes from the United States had also been considering withdrawing from the championships in protest at Russian doping.

The new venue will be decided in the next few days, the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) said in a statement.

Germany had already said it was willing to host the competition if it was switched.

The decision to move the championships was politicised and without grounds, Russia's RIA news agency quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying.

Vitaly Smirnov, head of Russia's anti-doping commission, told the R-Sport

news agency that other sports could now choose to move competitions away from his country.

"It's probably a consequence of the McLaren Report ... in principle there could be decisions on a whole range of sports," Smirnov said.

Russia is due to host the eighth stage of the Biathlon World Cup in Tyumen from March 7-12, the ISU World Cup Speed Skating final in Chelyabinsk (March 10-12) and the cross-country World Cup final in Tyumen from March 16-19.

The country is also scheduled to stage soccer's 2018 World Cup and four of the 2020 European Championship matches including one of the quarter-finals.

The IBSF said the switch from Sochi, host city of the 2014 Winter Olympics, was made for two main reasons.

Firstly, to allow athletes and coaches from all nations to participate in a competition that focuses on sport rather than accusations and discussions, whether justified or not.

Secondly, because the organisers have worked hard to prepare for the event but their efforts will inevitably be overshadowed by recent developments.

The statement added: "The IBSF asks all mem-

bers and athletes for fair play and respect which also includes the assumption of innocence for any athlete, regardless of national affiliation, until proven guilty."

Germany had ruled out boycotting the event but wanted it moved from Sochi, their bobsleigh federation (BSV) sports director Thomas Schwab told Reuters earlier on Tuesday.

"We would be very unhappy if it took place there. We have offered the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation to jump in and host the event. We would welcome a move of the event to another location," he said before the IBSF announcement.

The IBSF decided to switch the championships from Sochi after saying last week it would "act promptly and decisively following the publication of the final McLaren Report" after reading and digesting it.

McLaren's report said analysis of samples from four Russians who won gold medals in Sochi had shown salt readings that were physiologically impossible.

There was also evidence of tampering with the samples of 12 Russian medalists at those Games.